

1988

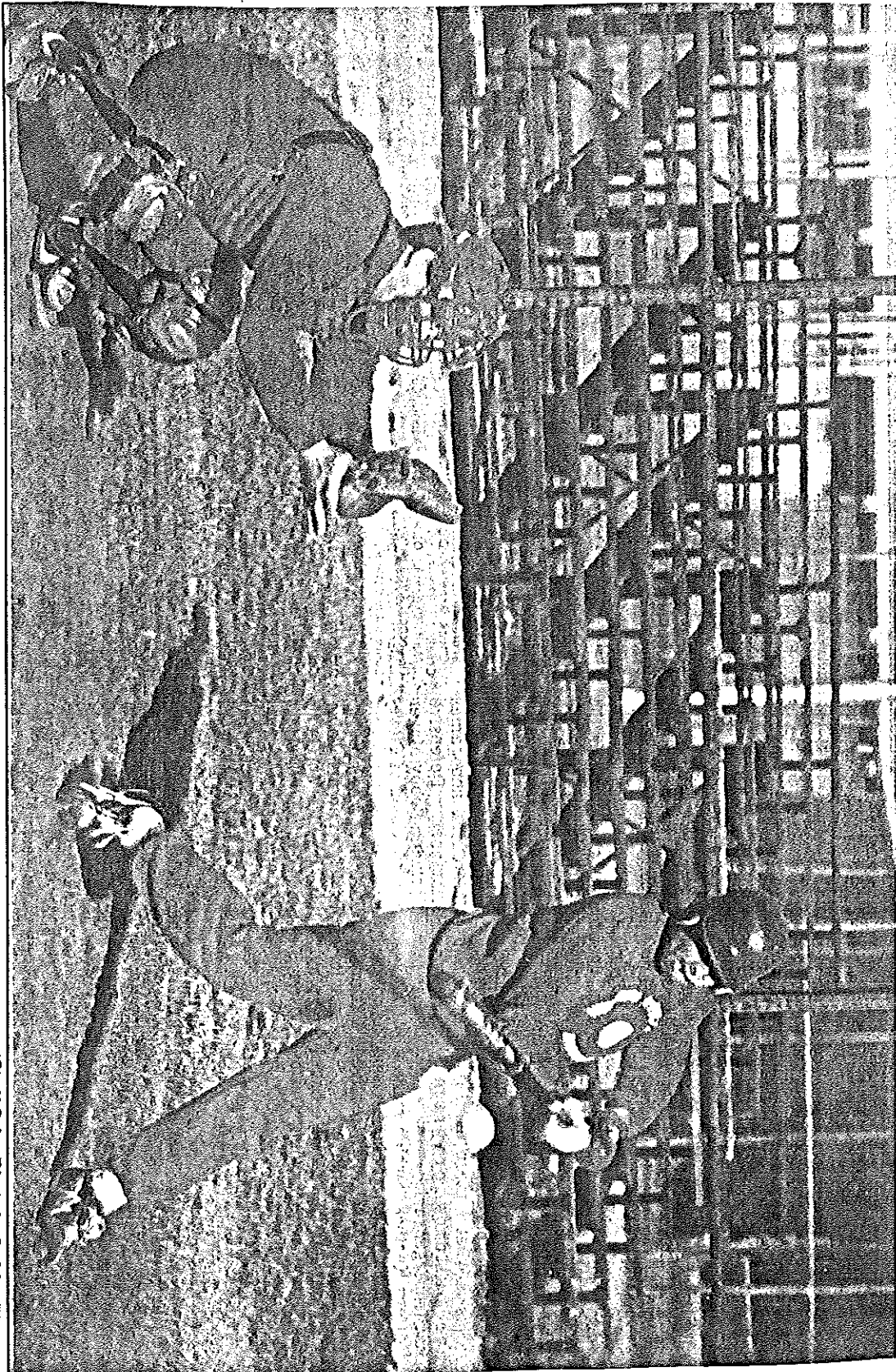
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WKU Archives

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(Staff Color Photo by LaMar Weaver)

Starting soon

DEREK TRUSS of Western's baseball team takes some swings during a practice Monday at Denes Field. Mike Latham was doing the cat-

ching. The Hilltoppers start their baseball season Sunday at Samford.

D. N. 3-11-88

Murrie taking Tops to 'court' for season

2-12-88

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

Giving up a leadoff walk.
Giving up a hit on an 0-2 pitch.
Missing a pickoff sign.
Not covering first.
Taking a third strike.
Making a baserunning error.
Throwing equipment.
Arguing with an umpire.
Not throwing "spit" cups in the garbage.

These are just some of the rules and regulations that Western players can be taken to "court" for this year.

The Hilltoppers just started having court this year, Coach Joel Murrie said, to keep the locker room clean, to improve etiquette on and off the field, to improve the

WKU baseball

team's image.

And it's fun. Graduate assistant and former Western player Dan Mosier sits as "judge," the players get to state their case before the team. If found guilty, the player has to "pay the price," according to Murrie.

"It's really hilarious. But it helps keep things in perspective," Murrie said.

It has also showed Murrie, heading into his ninth year at Western, that this team might be

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Murrie taking Tops to court

D.V. 2-12-58

Continued From Page 1-B

more mature than some of the others he's had — both on and off the field.

And Murrie likes what he's seeing.

"When you talk about individuals in college, whether they're athletes or non-athletes, you have some that accept responsibility and some who don't. I've been real pleased with this ballclub showing responsibility and self-discipline," Murrie said.

"When it comes down to it, those qualities are much more important than being able to throw the ball 90 miles an hour, or hitting the ball 400 feet. I expect this ballclub to go out and play on an even keel for 60 games, and not go through the emotional roller coaster of fired up one day, down the next."

That was kind of the theme of the 1967 Hilltoppers, who won nine of their first 12 — against some of the best competition in the nation in the Southwest Conference — then went through losing streaks of seven and six games, respectively, and finished 28-28 overall and 9-9 in the Sun Belt Conference West Division.

This year's team, with its top three hitters back from last year, is

picked to finish third in the West Division by Baseball America magazine. But that would be OK, because the conference tournament, at the West Division champion's field, is expanding to six teams, the top three from each division.

Last year the Hilltoppers could get up for SBC opponents at home, but would almost always lose on the road. It won once at South Florida, and that victory was the deciding factor in Western getting into the SBC Tournament.

"We finish with the last six conference games at home. But when you weigh the 18-game schedule, the first game is just as important as the last," Murrie said.

That first conference game won't be until April 1, when Western travels to heavy West Division favorite South Alabama for a 3-game set.

Between Sunday's season opener at Samford and the conference opener, Murrie will be looking for more bats to compliment catcher Mike Latham, center fielder Stan Cook and first baseman Gary Mueller, the three top hitters last year, and solid starting pitching to replace the graduated Kevin Pearce, Paul Zack, Doug Platt and C.L. Thomas.

But first, hitting and fielding.

Latham, who started 53 of Western's 54 games at catcher, hit .333 with nine home runs and 36 RBI. Cook hit .335 with 39 RBI and a team-high 14 doubles. Mueller was good for 305.

Joining Mueller in the infield will be veteran second baseman Juan Galan, who has started in all but two games during his 3-year career.

Two transfers will play on the left side of the infield. Randy Kotchman from Seminole, Fla., will go at third base. Mike Cash, from Panama City, Fla., will be at shortstop.

"Cash is as good a shortstop as we've had, and that includes people like Randy Strijk (an All-SBC performer)," Murrie said.

Gerald Ingram, another senior who was plagued by injuries last year, joins Cook in right field. Pete Davids, a junior from Melbourne, Australia, is in left.

Murrie is counting heavily on his seniors to provide leadership.

"It's time these guys performed at the level we need to be successful," Murrie said.

Two freshmen — Chris Turner out of Warren Central, and James Wambach from Barrington, Ill. — are battling it out for the designated hitter spot.

"It's a tough decision between them," Murrie said.

Transfers are also the top pitchers for Western, at this point, anyway.

Daren Kiziah, a 6-foot-4 right

hander from Peterson, Ala., will start Sunday. The other starter is Steve Bercier, a junior right-hander from West Chicago, Ill. Murrie said he would use the preconference schedule to find a third starter.

Tony Compton, a senior righty from Elizabethtown, and Jeff Meier, another right-handed senior from DeKalb, Ill., are the top returning relievers for Western.

Meier had a team-high seven

saves and a 3-2 record to go with a 2.90 ERA. Compton went 4-2 with one save, but was rocked with 6.94 ERA.

Bowling Green freshman Jeff

Ledogar is listed with the pitchers on Western's roster, but can also play infield and outfield.

"We don't return any starting pitching, but that's the way it happens sometimes," Murrie said. "The guys who were the closers are back. And that's when the game is won, anyway, in the ninth inning. Meier and Compton picked up a lot of saves for us and held a lot of games in check."

Sanderford wants to avenge loss

D.V. 2-12-58

Continued From Page 1-B

Traci Patton, a senior who may hold the key to Western's fortunes the rest of the way, has scored 47 points in her last three games. She netted a career-high 20 points in Tuesday's 83-64 besting of Illinois State.

"It's very important to us that Traci gives that kind of production," Sanderford said. "If Traci's not inside, it's going to take a very good team to beat us, because

we've got people who can get the ball to her, and we've got people who can offset her outside."

Winning the inside battle will be the key against VCU, which averages less than one three-point basket a game and plays a more patient tempo. The Lady Rams don't show anyone among the SBC's rebounding leaders.

Kelly Hoover, a forward, paces the Lady Rams with 15.4 points a game. Lisa Stielper (11.2), a guard, is the only other starter in

double figures.

Hoover is second in the conference in free-throw shooting percentage, and Stielper is eighth in assists and sixth in field-goal percentage.

Tandrea Green leads Western with 13.1 points and 6.6 rebounds a game.

Brigitte Combs scores 11.9 points, and Susie Starks pumps in 11.5.

Lady Topper tidbits

Combs is third in the conference in free-throw percentage (.776), and freshman Mary Taylor is fourth (.723). Starks is fourth in the conference in three-point percentage (.388). Debbie O'Connell and Kelly Smith are fifth and sixth among SBC assists leaders. Green is second in blocked shots (29) after six against SIU. Combs still leads the conference in steals (54), and Starks is fourth (43). Combs has had a steal in every game this season.

Mueller powers Toppers

D.N. 2-17-88

WKU baseball

MONTEVALLO, Ala. — Gary Mueller's 3-run home run in the second inning proved to be the winning hit in Western's 14-7 season-opening win over Samford on Sunday here.

Mueller's blast followed up a 5-run first inning, highlighted by a 2-run Chris Cage double.

Samford rallied for two runs in the bottom of the first and four in the third, but Western reliever Tony Compton (1-0) shut the door by giving up no hits and striking out three in 3 2/3 innings of work. He picked up the win.

Brian Hare (0-1) took the loss.

Mueller finished the day at 3 for 3 with four runs batted in.

Freshman Chris Turner, from Warren Central, slashed two hits in two trips to the plate, and Juan Galan went 2 for 2 and scored two runs.

Western 530 111 300-14 13 2
Samford 204 000 001-7 11 2
HR--Mueller (1), Samford--Lee Hall (1).
3B--None. 2B--Mueller, Chris Gage. David
Vaughn. W--Tony Compton (1-0). L--Brian Hare
(0-1).

Toppers going to Alabama

D.N. 2-19-88

WKU baseball

Western will travel to Tuscaloosa for its traditional 2-game set with Alabama this weekend.

The Hilltoppers, 1-0 after beating Samford 14-7 last weekend, open the series Saturday at 2 p.m. The Sunday contest will also be at 2 p.m.

This is the fourth year for the early-season rivalry between Coach Joel Murrie and Alabama coach Barry Schollenberger. Schollenberger coached at Western from 1977-79.

The Crimson Tide holds a 7-6 advantage in the series after splitting

the pair of games last year.

Three seniors lead Alabama. Catcher Tim Butt hit .331, had six home runs and batted in 31 runs last year. Outfielders Deron White and Omar Fernandez batted .347 and .317, respectively.

Mike Sadders is expected to go against Western's Daren Kizziah in Alabama's season opener, with David Oropeza taking the mound

against the Hilltoppers' Steve Bercler in the finale.

Gary Mueller led Western's 13-hit attack against Samford by going 3 for 3 with a double, a home run and four RBI. Tony Compton picked up the win in relief, not allowing a hit in three-and-two-thirds innings and striking out three.

Western will open at Denes Field next Tuesday against intrastate rival Louisville at 2 p.m.

Toppers fall to MTSU

D.V. 2-25-58

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — Western left 11 men on base, including five in the final two innings, and lost a 4-3 decision to Middle Tennessee here on Wednesday.

Reliever Heath Haynes (0-1) took the loss for Western (2-3), which had a 2-0 lead in the top of the third inning.

Middle Tennessee (3-0-1) broke a 3-3 deadlock in the bottom of the seventh when Ed Pye reached on an error, stole second base and came in on a George Zimmerman double.

Western built its early lead when Randy Catchman drove in Mike Cash on a fielder's choice and Pete Davids sacrificed in Juan Galan.

But Scott Duff's 2-run double brought in Mike Messerly and Darryl Steakly for Middle Tennessee in the bottom of the fourth to tie the score. MTSU took the lead on Messerly's RBI single in the bottom of the fifth.

Western loaded bases in the eighth but came up empty on two strikeouts and a pop foul.

Tony Martin (1-0) won for MTSU. Jody Tripp got a save.

Western will host Morehead in 3-game series starting with a 12 p.m. double-header Saturday and ending with a 1 p.m. single game Sunday.

Western 002 001 000—3 7 2
Middle Tennessee 000 210 10x—4 6 1
W—Tony Martin. S—Jody Tripp. L—Heath Haynes (0-1). HR—none. 3B—Mueller. 2B—MTSU—Zimmerman, Owens and Duff; Western—Galan, Davids and Mueller.

Louisville-Western

Western was down 7-0 going into third inning Tuesday against Louisville at Denes Field, but rallied for a 9-8 victory.

Louisville's Greg Graham, a freshman from Bowling Green, led off the game with a home run to right field off of high school teammate and Western pitcher Jeff Ledogar.

Western's offense got going in the fourth inning, loading up the bases. Gerald Ingram was hit by a Jimmy Downs' pitch, forcing in a run.

WKU baseball

James Wambach was then walked, forcing in another run.

Louisville got out of the inning with Western leaving the bases loaded.

Davids hit a double to score a run in the fifth inning. Mike Latham's single scored another run, then scored himself on a single by Warren Central product Chris Turner.

In the sixth inning, Randy Kotchman hit a double, then scored the game winner on a sacrifice fly by Latham.

Latham went 2 for 3 with three RBI. Davids was 2 for 4 with an RBI. Turner went 2 for 3 with an RBI.

Louisville 232 000 001—8 12 1
Western 001 341 00x—9 9 3
WP—Randy Cook (1-0). SV—Otis Lewis (1).
LP—Rick Arnold (0-1).

Western gains sweep

APR 30. D.N. 2-29-88

Western's basketball team took three games from visiting Morehead this weekend, capped off by Sunday's 11-0 win at Denes Field.

Western also beat 0-3 Morehead 11-10 and 9-2 in a Saturday double-header.

Western's Steve Bercier (1-1) struck out five and walked only five to get the win for Western (5-3). He allowed only two hits. Morehead's David Gray (0-1) got the loss.

The Hilltoppers were led by Pete David, who went 3 for 5 from the plate, got an RBI and scored three runs.

Mike Latham was 2 for 3 with two RBIS, and he added one run. Gary Mueller went 2 for 4 with one

WKU baseball

RBI.

Western pounded out 12 hits in the win.

Western 9, Morehead 2

The Hilltoppers got a 4-hit pitching performance from Heath Haynes (1-1) while pounding out 11 hits of their own.

Daids, Mike Cash and Gerald Ingram all had doubles and helped Western to an 8-run eruption in the sixth inning.

Brian Taylor (0-1) lost for Morehead.

Western 11, Morehead 10

Western pounded out 13 hits and got the winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning off of an error by Morehead.

Ingram lifted a pop fly that was dropped, and Juan Galan came across the plate.

Otis Lewis (1-0) got the win for Western. Kerry Elliot (0-1) took the fall for Morehead.

Sun Belt leaders C.J.

(Through Saturday's games) 3-1

SCORING

Player, college	G	Pts.	Avg.
Stipnie, VCU	27	635	23.5
Hodge, South Alabama	24	533	22.2
Lewis, South Alabama	26	584	21.7
Dinkins, NC-Charlotte	25	540	21.6
McNeal, Western Kentucky	27	539	20.0
Coleman, South Florida	25	476	19.0
Charles, UAB	28	523	18.7
Cheeks, VCU	28	488	17.4
Mundine, Jacksonville	28	416	14.9
Cayser, Old Dominion	26	385	14.8

REBOUNDING

Player, college	G	Reb.	Avg.
Smith, Western Kentucky	27	280	10.4
Coleman, South Florida	25	254	10.2
Thompson, VCU	26	231	8.9

Sunday's game

Morehead	000 000 000-0 2 5
Western	303 100 04X-11 12 1

W-Bercier (1-1), L-Gray (0-1), HR-none, 3B-none, 2B-Western, Mueller and Catchman (1).

Saturday's games

Second game

Morehead	110 000 0-2 4 3
Western	001 008 X-9 11 2

W-Haynes (1-1), L-Taylor (0-1), HR-none, 3B-none, 2B-Western, Cash, Daids and Ingram (1).

First game

Morehead	030 202 30-10 11 3
Western	000 261 12-11 13 5

W-Lewis (1-0), L-Elliot (0-1), HR-none, 3B-none, 2B-Morehead, Demoss (2), Western, Galan (2), Daids, Latham and Lambach (1).

Baseball

At Bowling Green, Ky.
Southern Indiana 010 000 01-2 8 0
Western Kentucky 200 001 10-4 10 2
Todd Karpf, Brian Kirchhoff (8) and Jason Stamm. Jeff Ledoga, Jeff Meier (7) and Mike Latham. WP-Larger 1-0, LP-Karpf 0-1, S-Meier 1. HR-Mike Cash (WK).
Records - Western Kentucky 7-3, Southern Indiana 0-2. C.J. 3-3-88

Maxwell was the only repeater Mississippi's Roder...

Five in ninth beats Houston

D.V. 3-8-54

HOUSTON — Western scored five runs in the ninth inning to beat Houston 8-5 here Monday.

Houston led 5-3 going into ninth, but pitching problems doomed the Cougars.

The Hilltoppers had two on and two out when Alec Miller walked Stan Cook to load bases. Mike Latham was then walked, forcing in Juan Galan. Miller's wild pitch scored Jeff Ledogar to tie the game.

WKU baseball

at 5-5. Gary Mueller was walked to load the bases again. James Wambach's double off Bobby Stone to right-center field cleared the bases.

Otis Lewis retired Houston in the ninth. Mueller had an unassisted double play to help Lewis out of the inning.

Cook's triple scored Pete Davids in the first inning. Cook scored on a wild pitch by starter Brett Simpson.

Wambach brought Western back to a 4-3 deficit with his second home run of the year in the fourth inning.

Wambach went 3 for 5 with a homer, double and single. He had four RBI. Cook had a triple.

The Hilltoppers are 9-4 with Texas Southern scheduled for Wednesday. Western is 2-1 on its spring break road trip.

Western 200 001 005-8 6 3
Houston 020 200 010-5 7 2
WP—Tony Compton (2-0) four innings, one hit,
2 Ks, 2 walks, LP—Alec Miller (1-1).

APR 11

WKU sweeps St. Louis

D.V. 3-16-88

Western swept a double-header Tuesday with St. Louis at Denes Field.

Jeff Ledogar of Bowling Green pitched the first complete game of his collegiate career in the opener, getting seven strikeouts and issuing only three walks while giving up three hits in the 3-0 shutout. Ledogar is 2-0.

A pinch hit single by Chris Gage that scored pinch runner Derrick Truss was the big hit in the first game.

There were several big hits in the second game, an 8-1 Western win.

Randy Kotchman and Warren Central product Chris Turner had back-to-back home runs for Western in the fourth inning. It was Turner's fourth homer of the season.

WKU baseball

Pete Davids' triple scored Turner in the first inning.

Darrin Kizziah (2-3) had his first complete game for the Hilltoppers in the second contest, striking out five and walking three.

Western is now 12-6 and was scheduled to play Bellarmine today at 3 p.m. Western plays at Cumberland on Thursday.

First game	
St. Louis	000 000 0-0 3 1
Western	000 003 x-3 3 1
WP-Jeff Ledogar (2-0), LP-Chuck Fordhaus (0-1).	
Second game	
St. Louis	000 100 0-1 3 0
Western	310 220 x-8 14 1
WP-Darrin Kizziah (2-3), LP-Ed Cunningham (0-1).	

Baseball C.U.

At Bowling Green, Ky. 3-16-88

St. Louis	000 000 0-0 3 1
Western Kentucky	000 003 x-3 3 1
Mike Bennett, Chuck Fordhaus (4) and Tim Braden, Jeff Ledogar and Mike Latham. W-Ledogar (2-0), L-Fordhaus (0-1).	
St. Louis	000 100 0-1 3 0
Western Kentucky	310 220 x-8 14 1
Ed Cunningham, Mike Gilliam (3), Rodney Toliver (5), Fordhaus (5), Pete Origlatto (6) and Darren Basler. Daren Kizziah and Latham, Derek Truff (5). W-Kizziah (2-3), L-Cunningham (0-1). 2B-Mike Miller (SL), Chris Turner (WK), Stan Cook (WK), James Wambach (WK), 3B-Pete Davids (WK). HR-Randy Kotchman (WK), Chris Turner (WK). Records - St. Louis 3-4, Western Kentucky 12-6.	

Hilltoppers undefeated (11-0) at home

D. N. 3-21-58

WKU baseball

Western's baseball team is undefeated (11-0) at home after taking three from visiting Xavier over the weekend.

Western (17-7) beat Xavier 6-5 and 3-1 Sunday, and the Hilltoppers won a 15-13 slugfest Saturday at Denes Field.

Heath Haynes (2-1) yielded only six hits and one run in six innings to pitch Western to the win in Sunday's 3-1 night-cap. He allowed no walks in picking up the win. Jeff Meier picked up his third save.

Western scored all of its runs in the second inning. Gary Mueller

walked and scored on a single by Juan Galan. Gary Truff crossed the plate on a fielder's choice, and Galan came in on a balk.

Bill Mitich (0-2) lost for Xavier.

Western 6, Xavier 5.

A first-inning 3-run double by Mueller, batting .364 this season, was the big blow.

But the winning RBI belonged to Stan Cook, who doubled home Chris Turner in the fourth inning.

Darin Kiziah (3-3) pitched five innings and struck out two en route to the win. Tony Compton hurtled for two innings and struck out two for his first save of the season.

Dave Goodwin (0-3) lost for Xavier.

Western 15, Xavier 13.

Gerald Ingram drove in two runs on a second-inning double to ignite a 7-run rally.

Galan singled in Cook and Mueller for the winning runs in the seventh inning.

Jeff Ledogar picked up his third win against no losses. Randy Cook got his first save.

Scott Gordon (0-2) lost.

Turner hit his sixth homer of the season in the bottom of the first, and Pete Davids added a solo blast

in the seventh.

Western will travel to Nashville for today's 2:30 p.m. game with David Lipscomb, and Cumberland will visit Denes Field Wednesday at 2 p.m.

Sunday's games

First game

Xavier

Western

W-Kiziah (3-3), L-Goodwin (0-3), 5-Compton (1), HR-Xavier, Smith (2), 3B-none, 2B-Western, Mueller and Cook, Xavier, Gordon and Vencus.

Second game

Xavier

Western

W-Haynes (2-1), L-Witich (0-2), 5-Meier (3), HR-none, 3B-none, 2B-Western, Turner, Xavier, Funke.

Saturday's game

Xavier

Western

W-Ledogar (3-0), L-Gordon (0-2), 5-Cook (1), HR-Xavier, Smith (1), Western, Turner (6) and Davids (1), 3B-Western, Davids, 2B-Western, Mueller, Ingram, Xavier, Gordon and Swissheim.

200 002 1-5 9 0

400 200-X-4 11 0

W-Kiziah (3-3), L-Goodwin (0-3), 5-Compton (1), HR-Xavier, Smith (2), 3B-none, 2B-Western, Mueller and Cook, Xavier, Gordon and Vencus.

Second game

Xavier

Western

W-Haynes (2-1), L-Witich (0-2), 5-Meier (3), HR-none, 3B-none, 2B-Western, Turner, Xavier, Funke.

Saturday's game

Xavier

Western

W-Ledogar (3-0), L-Gordon (0-2), 5-Cook (1), HR-Xavier, Smith (1), Western, Turner (6) and Davids (1), 3B-Western, Davids, 2B-Western, Mueller, Ingram, Xavier, Gordon and Swissheim.

003 006 031-13 12 2

371 100 30X-15 14 6

Tops strand eight in loss

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Western stranded eight baserunners in dropping a 4-2 decision to David Lipscomb here Monday.

Western's only two runs of the game came in the last two innings as the Hilltoppers fell to 17-8.

Chris Turner led off the eighth inning with his second double of the game. Turner scored on a fielder's choice by Stan Cook.

Gerald Ingram led off the ninth inning with another double. Pinch hitter Chris Gage hit into a field-

D.N. 3-22-88

WKU baseball

er's choice, scoring Ingram.

Ingram went 3 for 4 to lead Western.

The Hilltoppers were scheduled to host Cumberland, Tenn., today at 2 p.m.

Western 000 000 011—2 10 3
David Lipscomb 001 000 030—4 6 0
WP—Scott Ford (1-1). LP—Randy Cook (1-2).

Baseball C.J.

At Bowling Green, Ky. 3-24-88
Eastern Kentucky 130 013 100—9 18 1
Western Kentucky 000 013 301—8 11 1
Don Wachsmith, Brad Waker (6), Robert Keaque (7) and Jerry Pierce. Jeff Ledogar, Otis Lewis (5), Steve Bercier (6), Don Enright (7), Heath Hayes (8) and Mike Latham. L—Ledogar (3-1). W—Wachsmith (1-1). 2B—Scott Privitera (E), Jerry Preece (E), Gary Mueller (W). 3B—Scott Ulrey (E), Gerald Ingram (W). HR—Jaun Galan (W). Records — Eastern 12-9, Western 18-9.

At Bowling Green 3-23-88

Cumberland ... 300 100 002—6 5 4
Western Ky. ... 002 400 32x—11 10 4
Steve Robbins, But Boyd (5), Todd White (7) and Doug Saunders, Mike Wheeler (7). Efrain Berreiro, Tony Compton (6), Wayne Orsheim (9) and Mike Latham, Derek Truff (9). W — Berreiro (1-0). L — Robbins (1-1). 2B — Chris Turner (WK). Stan Cook (WK). James Wambach (WK). HR — Mike Cash (WK). Cook (WK). Records — Western Kentucky 18-8, Cumberland 9-10 C.J.

Cash gets money hit

D.N. 3-23-88

WKU baseball

A 3-run homer by Mike Cash was all Western needed to go 12-0 at Denes Field Tuesday and 18-8 on the season.

Cash slashed the homer in the bottom of the fourth inning of Western's 11-6 win over visiting Cumberland (9-10).

Cash drove in Gerald Ingram and Juan Galan before crossing the plate with the winning run and run batted in.

The blast helped Efrain Berreiro (1-0) get a win in his first collegiate start. Berreiro threw for five innings and gave up three earned runs, struck out three and walked only three while giving up three hits.

Steve Robbins dropped to 1-1 for Cumberland after allowing Cash's homer.

The hit was Western's second home run of the day. Stan Cook slashed a 2-run homer in the bottom of the third and ended the day with three RBI.

The Hilltoppers will try to make it 13-0 when they host Eastern at 2 p.m. today.

Western 002 400 32x—11 10 4
Cumberland 300 100 002—6 5 4
W—Berreiro (1-0). L—Robbins (1-1). HR—Western, Cook (2), Cash (2). 3B—none. 2B—Western, Turner, Cook and Wambach.

Tops get first home loss

D. N. 3-24-88

WKU baseball

Western's baseball team picked up its first loss in 13 home games Wednesday, and it came 9-8 at the hands of cross-state rival Eastern.

Western (18-9) had runners on first and second with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning after Pete Davids scored to make it 9-8.

Gerald Ingram hit a long fly to center field, but 12-9 Eastern's Scott Ulrey ran it down. A relay throw back to first base doubled Gary Mueller, who couldn't get back in time, to end the game.

Western fell behind 5-0 after four innings, but a sixth-inning 3-run home run by Juan Galan (his first of the year) helped spark a rally.

Former Bowling Green High pitcher Jeff Ledogar picked up his first loss in four games after being tagged for five runs in five innings.

Don Wachsmith (1-1) got the win, and Robert Teague picked up his first save of the season.

Western will seek revenge in Richmond at 3 p.m. today.

Eastern 130 013 100-9 16 2
Western 000 013 301-8 11 1
W-Wachsmith (1-1), L-Ledogar (3-1), S-
Teague (1), HR-Western, Galan (1), 3B-
Eastern, Ulrey, Western, Ingram, 2B-Eastern,
Pierce and Privitera, Western, Mueller.

Brewer picks Western, Gray likes Murray

C.S. 3-25-88

James Brewer of Bardstown and Mike Gray of Caldwell County have made verbal commitments to attend Western Kentucky and Murray State, respectively, on basketball scholarships.

Each is expected to sign a national letter-of-intent April 13, the first day high school seniors can sign.

Brewer, a 6-foot-3, 190-pound guard, averaged 20.5 points a game for Bardstown's 28-6 team, which won the All-Class A Classic and was runner-up in the King of the Bluegrass tourney at Fairdale and the Louisville Invitational Tournament. He recently learned he scored high enough on the American College Test (ACT) to qualify for a Division I scholarship.

"A lot of people had backed off on Boo (Brewer's nickname) because he hadn't passed the ACT," Bardstown coach Tim McDougale said, "but Western hung in there."

Gray, a 6-5, 185-pound guard-forward who has started at Caldwell County since the eighth grade, averaged 26.8 points and 12 rebounds for his 22-8 team.

"I thought Murray did the best job of recruiting Mike," Caldwell County coach Robin Scott said. "They had an excellent year and did well in the NCAA. We were impressed with coach Steve Newton. He came to see Mike play several times."

At Bowling Green, Ky.
 Eastern Ill. 000 220 100 002—7 18 2
 Western Ky. 101 200 010 000—5 15 1
 Mike Murrie, Bill Taylor (8) and Stan Royer. Steve Barcier, Rhady Cook (7) and Mike Latham. L—Cook, (1-3). W—Taylor. (2-0). 2B—Jaun Galan (W), Mike Cash (W), Mike Latham (W), Shannon Coppell (El), Vic Lanzotti (El), Dana Leibovitz (El), Brain Filola (El). HR—Jaun Galan (W), Stan Royer (El), David McDavitt (El), Dana Leibovitz (El). Records — Western 19-10, Eastern Illinois 8-4.

Golf C. J. 3-27-88

LADY HILLTOPPER INVITATIONAL
 At Ky. Dam Village G.C., par 72
 Gilbertsville, Ky.

Teams: 607 — Kentucky; 673 — Western Kentucky; 689 — Illinois State; 694 — Mississippi; 711 — Mankato State; 803 — Southwest Missouri State.
 Individuals: 148 — Kate Rogerson (UK) (new women's record); 154 — Noelle Daghe (UK), Debbie Blank (UK); 156 — Cindy Mueller (UK); 159 — Suzanne Noblett (WKU); 160 — Margie Muzik (UK).

Golf

LADY HILLTOPPER INVITATIONAL
 At Ky. Dam Village, par 72
 Bowling Green

Team scores: 301 — Kentucky; 328 — Western Kentucky; 338 — Illinois State; 345 — Mississippi; 354 — Mankato State; 393 — Southwest Missouri State.
 Individual scores: 69 — Kate Rogerson (UK); 77 — Noelle Daghe (UK), Debbie Blank (UK); 78 — Ann Kroot (UK), Cindy Mueller (UK), Suzanne Noblett (WKU); 80 — Andrea Smith (IS); 82 — Marci Butler (WKU). C. J. 3-26-88

Johnson wins Cooper 10K

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Ashley Johnson, a former Western All-America cross country performer, won the 10K Cooper River Bridge Run here last weekend.

Johnson won the \$2,000 first prize for his 29:56 finish.

Nearly 6,600 people were in the race Saturday. p. 10

3-25-88

C. J. At Bowling Green, Ky. 3-25-88
 Eastern Illinois ... 200 010 0-3 7 1
 Western Ky. 101 202 x-6 10 1
 Mike Deese, Guy Taylor (8) and Stan Royer. Jeff Ledogar, Jeff Meier (7) and Mike Latham. W—Ledogar (4-1). L—Deese (0-2). S—Meier (4). 2B—Chris Turner (WKU), David McDavitt (El). HR—Chris Turner (WKU).
 Eastern Illinois 011 013 0-6 8 1
 Western Ky. 114 100 x-7 8 2
 Steve Readnour, Mike DiBenedetto (3), Scott Nelson (3) and Royer. Heath Haynes, Tony Compton (8), Otis Lewis (7) and Latham. W—Haynes (3-1). L—Readnour (0-2). S—Lewis (3). 2B—Latham (3) (WKU), Shannon Coppell (El), Dana Leibovitz (El). HR—Royer (El). Records — Western Kentucky 21-10, Eastern Illinois 8-8.

Toppers sweep EIU

Chris Turner hit his eighth home run of the season and Mike Latham went 5 for 7 as Western swept Eastern Illinois in a Sunday double-header at Denes Field.

Western won the first game 6-3 and the nightcap 7-6.

EIU had four hits in first inning of the opening game to take a 2-0 lead. But the Hilltoppers came back with the help of Turner, a Warren Central product, who led off bottom first with his eighth home run of the year.

A bases-loaded sacrifice fly by Gary Mueller tied the score in the third inning.

Latham went 2 for 4 in the game, as did Turner.

Bowling Green freshman Jeff Ledogar (4-1) struckout five and walked one in six-and-two-thirds innings of work.

Latham had a two-run double in the third inning of the second game. He had four RBI, going 3 for 3, all doubles.

WKU sports

Stan Cook added two hits in the second game.

Western is now 21-10 (14-2 at home). The Hilltoppers host Samford today at 2:30 p.m. at Denes Field.

Eastern Illinois 200 010 0-3 7 1
 Western 101 202 x-6 10 1
 WP—Jeff Ledogar (4-1). Sv—Jeff Meier (4).
 LP—Mike Deese (0-2).
 Eastern Illinois 011 013 0-6 8 1
 Western 114 100 x-7 8 2
 WP—Heath Haynes (3-1). Sv—Otis Lewis (3).
 LP—Steve Redenour (1-2).

Hilltoppers bomb Samford 12-2

Western pounded out 12 runs and 13 hits to whip Samford 12-2 Monday at Denes Field.

Western also got its second straight complete game out of Darin Kiziah. Kiziah (5-3) had five strikeouts while giving up only one walk in his third complete game of the year. He went the distance in beating Eastern 9-2 last Thursday.

The Hilltoppers racked Samford's Geoff Walters (0-4) with three runs in the second, fifth and seventh innings.

Western, now 22-10 and 15-2 at Denes Field, scored three times in the fifth inning on just two hits. Gerald Ingram stole home base in that inning.

Chris Turner had three RBI on the day. James Wambaugh had two RBI.

Gary Mueller went 2 for 4. Stan Cook was 2 for 3.

Samford dropped to 5-30-1.

Western hosts Bellarmine today at 2:30 p.m.

Samford 000 000 200-2 4 5
Western 130 130 31x-12 13 3
WP-Darin Kiziah (5-3). LP-Geoff Walters (0-4).

Men's golf

RICHMOND, Ky. — The Hilltoppers won the EKU Colonel Classic over 209 teams last weekend here with wind and rain.

The Hilltoppers had a total of 916

WKU sports

(308-304-304).

Eastern finished second with a 921. Austin Peay was next with 936. Louisville came in fourth with 937.

Eastern's Tom Krenke was the medalist with a 224 (77-75-72) for three rounds.

Western'sd Richard Lennox finished second with a 226 (75-74-77). Jeff Guest had a 230 (77-79-74), Eric Hogge had a 234 (77-74-83), Wayne Guest had a 235 (82-78-75) and Trey Lewis shot a 235 (78-79-78).

Western is 19-0 for the spring season. The Hilltoppers travel to the Kentucky Invitational this coming week.

Women's golf

GILBERTSVILLE, Ky. — The

Lady Topper Suzanne Noblett placed fifth with a 159. Joi Thomas placed ninth with a 170 score, and Marci Butler finished in a tie for 10th with a 171.

Kate Rogerson of Kentucky was the medalist with a 148 (69 and 79).

Western had round scores of 328 and 345.

Lady Topper Suzanne Noblett placed fifth with a 159. Joi Thomas placed ninth with a 170 score, and Marci Butler finished in a tie for 10th with a 171.

Rounding out Western's card were Kim Rodgers (173) and Karen Johnson (188).
Illinois State (689) was third. Mississippi was fourth with a 694.

Western (16-7) will travel to Norman, Okla., Apr. 4-5 for the Susie Maxwell Bering All-College Classic.

Baseball C.J.

At Bowling Green, Ky. 3-5
Bellarmine 013 000 100-5 8 2
Western Ky. 700 004 005-11 18 3
Brandon O'Shea, Tom Williamson (B), Keith Medley (7) and Wally Finoy (B).
Meier, Randy Cook (4), Tony Compton (B), Otis Lewis (B) and Mike Latham (WK).
Tous (B), W.—Meier (2-0), O'Shea (2-2), 2B—Stan Cook 2 (WK), Latham (WK), Randy Korchman 2 (WK), Mike Cash (WK), Mike Crabtree (B), Mike Busser (B), 3B—Pete Davis (WK). Record—Bellarmine 7-16-1, Western Kentucky 23-10.

Tops open in SBC this weekend

3-31-88

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

Joel Murrie expected to be closer to 500 than he is heading into Friday's Sun Belt Conference baseball opener against South Alabama.

"Definitely. Especially after we lost our three starting pitchers from last year," said Murrie, Western's coach who takes a 23-10 team to Mobile for the 3-game set this weekend. "I had a lot of sad nights in January. But we decided we had to suck it up and go with our young people. We put a lot of pressure on the young people and stuck with them. Everyone has responded and taken to the challenge."

C.L. Thomas, John Bair and Doug Platt, the leading returning pitcher in the conference, were all out to academic difficulties and eligibility problems before the season began. That left Murrie going with inexperienced hurlers and a bullpen by committee.

Well, the starters for this weekend — Steve Bercier, Jeff Ledogar and Daren Kiziah — are

WKU at SOUTH ALA.

TEAMS: Western (23-10, 0-0 in the SBC West Division) vs. South Alabama (21-10, 1-2 in the SBC West Division)

SITE: Stanky Field, Mobile, Ala.

GAME TIMES: 6:30 p.m., Friday; 1:30 p.m., Saturday; 1 p.m., Sunday

RADIO: None

a combined 10-6. The bullpen by committee — Tony Compton, Jeff Meier, Otis Lewis and Randy Cook — is 7-3 with nine saves.

Pitching, the big question mark coming into the year for the Hilltoppers, has been a prime reason why they are 13 games over .500 as they get ready to face the preseason pick to win the West Division. South Alabama, 21-10 overall and 1-2 in divisional play after a series at South Florida, hosts Western at Stanky Field for a 6:30 p.m. game Friday, a 1:30 contest Saturday and a 1 p.m. finale Sunday.

But there are a couple of other factors that have contributed to

Western's early success.

"The senior class has given outstanding leadership. They've been patient with the younger players," Murrie said. "Their general approach to the game has been very serious. And the younger players have brought in a lot of enthusiasm. They want to get better every time they go out."

One who has is Chris Turner, a freshman from Warren Central. Turner, who has played in the outfield and at third base, is leading the SBC with eight home runs. He is batting .352 and had a 12-game hitting streak stopped Sunday by Eastern Illinois.

Ledogar, another freshman from Bowling Green, has a 4-1 record in seven starts. Ledogar has a 4.14 ERA in 37 innings.

Kiziah has logged the most work with 55.33 innings. The junior right-hander is 5-3 with a 3.90 ERA.

"Bercier (1-2) and Kiziah had trouble throwing strikes earlier, but they're both settling down now," Murrie said. "Kiziah has been extremely good in his last five

outings."

Turner, the leadoff man, is just one piece of the hitting puzzle, though. Left fielder Pete Davis, the team's leading hitter at .354, and center fielder Stan Cook have been doing a good job of getting Turner and table setters Gerald Ingram, Juan Galan and Mike Cash across. Catcher Mike Latham leads four 20-or-better RBI men with 25 from the sixth spot in the batting order.

Gary Mueller has 22 RBI out of the fifth hole. Freshman James Wambaugh has 21 RBI as the designated hitter in the clean-up spot.

"We're getting hitting from top to bottom," Murrie said. "Sometimes the farther you go into our lineup, the better we get."

Western will need its aggressive game of hitting and running to be at its best when it meets Coach Steve Kittrell's club.

Where the Hilltoppers will try and move around the bases via the

short game, the Jaguars are capable of swinging for the walls, as 36 home runs would indicate. "We knew we'd have some guys who could hit it," Kittrell said this morning.

First baseman Luis Gonzalez was a freshman All-American in 1986, and he leads the team in hitting (.367) and RBI (38). He also has seven home runs.

Sophomore shortstop Mike Mordecai is next with .365, seven homers and 32 RBI.

Freshman right-hander Mike Zimmerman is the Jaguars' top pitcher with a 3-0 record and 2.56 ERA. Zimmerman will work some late relief Friday and Saturday, and will get the start Sunday.

"Defense is our strong suit right now," Kittrell said. "We've been very inconsistent lately. We're trying to put our pitching back together."

Topper habits

Western is in the midst of a 4-game winning streak.... Its 23-10 record is the best start since 1985, when it also won 23 of its first 33 games.... The Hilltoppers are 13-4 since their Texas swing during spring break.... Western and South Alabama are both tough at home. The Hilltoppers are 16-2 at Deneb Field; South Alabama is 17-3 at Stanky Field....

Turner, Ledogar help Tops

The Chris Turner Saga continues.
Jeff Ledogar is starting one of his
own.

Turner finished his career at
Warren Central as perhaps the
finest all-around athlete to come
out of this area in some time. As a
quarterback, he led the football

D.N. 4-5-88

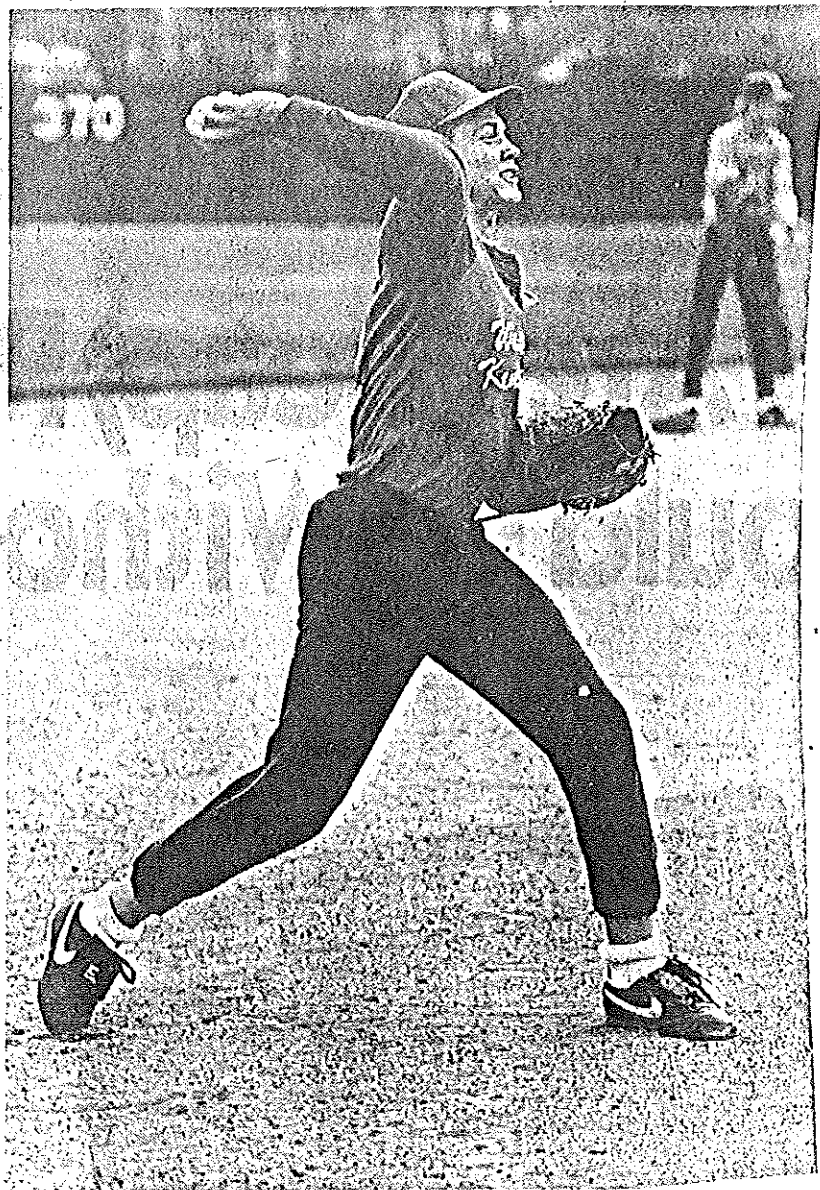


**Mark C.
Mathis**

Daily News
Sports Editor
Commentary

Dragons to the state at-large finals
in Class 4A his senior year. As a
point guard, Turner led the basket-
ball Dragons to the Fourth Region
championship and the State Tour-
nament his senior season. As a
pitcher and shortstop, Turner led

Continued on Page 10
Column 1, This Section



Turner, Ledogar get good starts at WKU

Continued From Page 8

the baseball Dragons to the Semi-State final as a senior.

He headed to Western this fall with only a bat and glove, ready to do some learning as one of the new kids on the block for Joel Murrie's Hilltoppers.

As usual, Turner learned his lessons quickly. He is the third-leading hitter for 24-12 Western at .331. His 40 hits are second on the team. His 32 runs scored is tied for first. He leads the team with eight home runs. His 23 RBI are among the team leaders. His 17 extra base hits and .612 slugging percentage are team highs.

He has adjusted to collegiate pitching, to say the least.

Ledogar was a nice high school athlete at Bowling Green. Good football player. Better baseball player. Solid in both, but not an all-star.

He figured to be seeing spot pitching duty. Maybe some utility work. Nothing spectacular.

But, wait a second, Mr. Ledogar. Wasn't that you out on the mound Sunday in Mobile, Ala., facing South Alabama, the preseason pick to win the Sun Belt Conference West Division? I believe it was.

Ledogar stepped in to a drastically depleted pitching staff and has helped shore it up quite well for Murrie, thank you.

The freshman has pitched more than 40 innings, etching out a 4-2 record and a 4.61 ERA. He has a complete game and a shutout already to his credit. He has struck out 26 batters while walking 20. He has elevated himself into the 3-man conference rotation.

Murrie is happy to have them both around. Both have pleasantly surprised the Western coach who is going for his 300th win this week.

"We knew Chris could hit. He has good bat speed and he lays off bad pitches," Murrie said. "We moved him to the outfield to take some of the pressure off him defensively. We felt if we could take that off him it would help him excel offensively. Now, we need him in the infield some, and he still has a hot

bat. We're not surprised he's helping. But his numbers have surpassed anything we would expect of a freshman."

More variety of pitches has helped Ledogar, Murrie says.

"I'm very pleased with the job he's done for us on the mound," Murrie said. "He's improved his fastball, and his breaking ball is much better. He can change speeds a lot better now. Nothing has been given to him. When we lost the three pitchers, I said I'm looking for a No. 3 starter to rise above the rest. Jeff seemed to be the one to open my eyes the quickest. He hasn't lost it."

"I've got a slider, and I worked on the change last summer," Ledogar said. "I didn't think I would be pitching, but I'm doing alright."

Ledogar's first start was against Louisville. The first batter he faced was former Bowling Green teammate Greg Graham. The first pitch was ... outa here.

"The first game was exciting. I played with him (Graham) all the time. I should've known," Ledogar said.

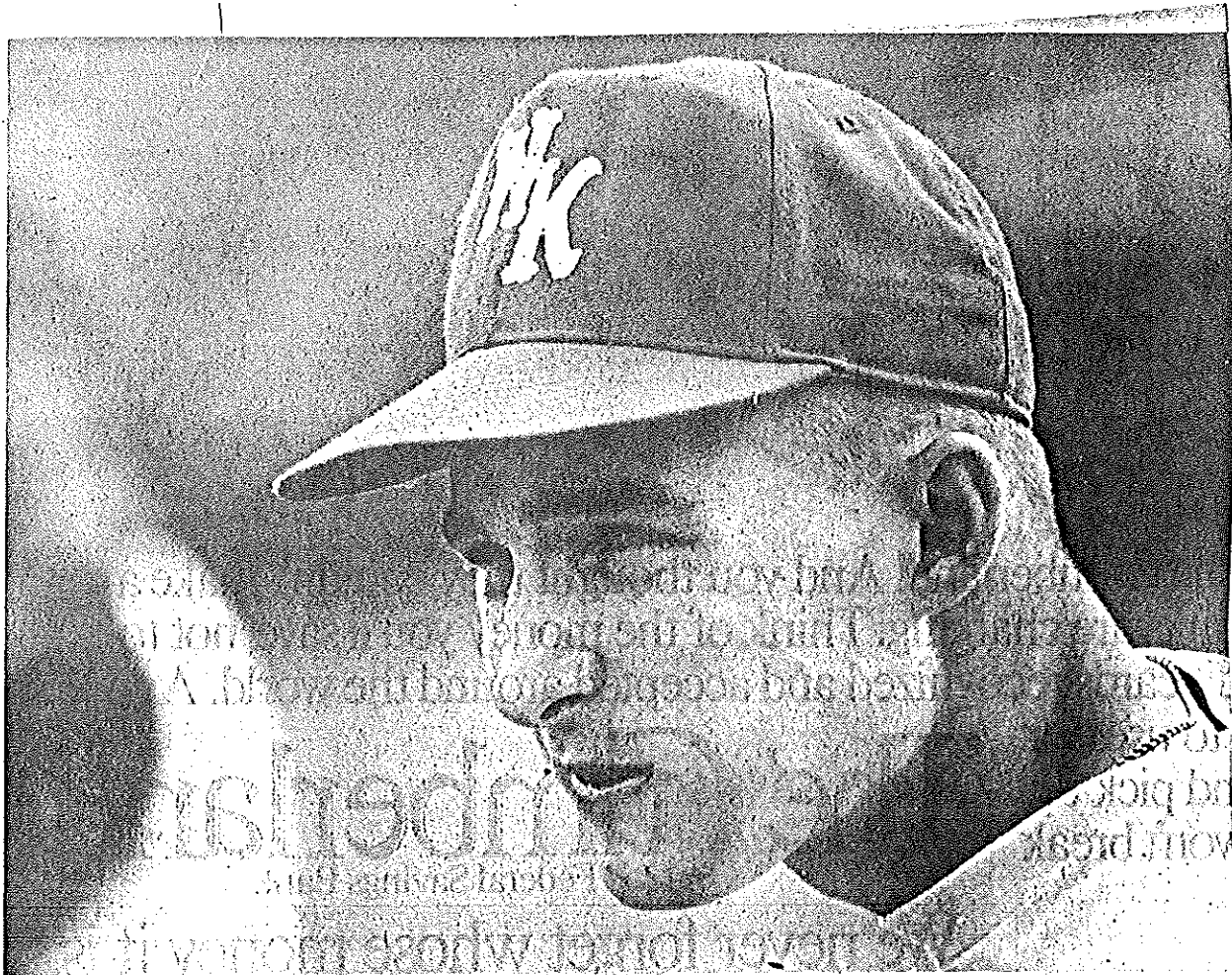
Ledogar knew Turner from their high school days, too. They would exchange greetings at games. But they were always opposing each other — that is until last summer, when the pair played for Post 23. It was suggested the two share an apartment this fall.

"It helped a lot playing with him over the summer," Ledogar said of his new roommate, who, coincidentally shares the same major, too — pre-med.

When Turner was playing over the summer and this fall, he didn't think he would pick up with the bat where he left off in high school.

"I thought it would take me half the season to get used to college pitching," Turner said. "I've improved a lot more than I thought I would. I've been trying my best to improve. Most of it was mental. Preparing myself mentally was the main thing."

For Turner, it's just another step. For Ledogar, it's been a new beginning.



(Staff Photos by LaMar Weaver)

CHRIS TURNER (top) and Jeff Ledogar (bottom) are two local players who are helping Western's baseball team as freshmen. Turner was a multisport

star for Warren Central. Ledogar was a football and baseball standout for Bowling Green.

D.V. 4-5-83

Tops tie scoring record

D. N. 4-6-88

WKU baseball

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. — The Hilltoppers tied a 1934 record for most runs scored by a Western team in a game Tuesday with a 26-13 win over Austin Peay here.

Western beat Lindsey Wilson 26-5 in 1934.

Randy Kotchman led the bat attack with four hits, including two doubles. Five players had two hits each.

Chris Turner hit his ninth home run of the year in the top half of the 9-run sixth inning. James Wambach had a 3-run home run in the top half of the first inning. It was his fourth homer of the year. Juan Galan had a 2-run homer in

the top half of the third inning.

Wambach and Mike Cash each had four RBI. Gary Mueller and Stan Cook each had three RBI.

Coach Joel Murrie goes for his 300th win today when the Hilltoppers, who are now 25-12, play Vanderbilt in Nashville, Tenn., at 3:30 p.m. Murrie is 299-183-4 in his ninth season.

Western	353 409 2-26 16 4
Austin Peay	015 230 2-13 14 8
WP—Efrain Barreiro (2-0), LP—Chris Taylor (0-1).	

At Bowling Green, Ky.
 Kentucky 010 401 000—7 6 2
 Western Kentucky 000 012 000—3 4 0
 Roy Bailey, Vince Tyra (5), Tom Deller (6), John Hudson (7), Dave Vot (9) and Robbie Buchanan. Jeff Ledogar, Tony Compton (3), Jeff Meier (5), Otis Lewis (8), Randy Cook (9) and Mike Mathan. W — Bailey (1-1), L — Ledogar (4-3). 26 — Mike Cash (W), Darin Rieman (K), Rick Norton (K). HR — John Marshall (K) 2, Mark Blythe (K). Records: Kentucky 15-13, Western 25-14. C. J. 4-8-88

Wildcats not exciting Murrie

4-6-88
By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

The last time Kentucky and Western played on the baseball field, the Hilltoppers had one of their most explosive teams in history.

They dropped three straight to the Wildcats — two games by one run each.

Western trails UK in the series 11-3.

So, it figures that Joel Murrie isn't overly excited about the Kentucky coming to Denes Field for a 3:30 p.m. game Thursday.

Is playing the state's biggest university a big deal, coach?

"Not really," Murrie said. "The last time we played we dropped

UK VS. WESTERN

TEAMS: Kentucky (14-13), Western (24-12)

SITE: Denes Field

TIME: 3:30 p.m., Thursday

RADIO: WDNS-FM

three straight. We were preparing for our conference tournament. This game is important for the fans. It will be the best crowd of the year. But, again, we've got conference games coming up. Coach (Keith) Madison has said this is his best club in 10 years. This is a very average club for us.

On paper we ought to get our rear ends beat. We shouldn't even be in the game, maybe we won't be."

For UK, 14-13 on the year, this game will be a homecoming for a couple of players and Madison.

Madison is from Brownsville and graduated from Western. He and Murrie battled it out three years ago for two Bowling Green recruits who teamed on the Purples to make one of the most potent pitching duos of any high school team in the state in 1985.

Tom Deller and Doug Sutton are now mainstays on the mound for the Wildcats. Heading into last weekend, Deller was 1-1 in six appearances and Sutton was 2-2 in six outings. Both have ERAs over 5.00.

Sutton led the team in innings pitched with 31.3 going into last weekend.

Chris Estep, a preseason All-America junior from Indianapolis, is generally considered UK's best player. The center fielder leads UK with six home runs, although he is batting .269.

Of the regulars for Madison's squad, shortstop Billy White leads the club in hitting with a .351 average. First baseman John Marshall has a .325 average.

Western (24-12) went into today's game at Vanderbilt with some smoking bats, as it pounded out 26 runs in Tuesday's win at Austin Peay. That run total tied a school record that was set in 1934.

UAB will fight Western, home-field advantage

When home-field advantage is talked about, the Sun Belt Conference baseball leaps to mind.

The SBC is a home-field league if there ever was one.

Alabama Birmingham has played both its SBC West Division games at Young Memorial Field, and notched two wins against South Florida. Western has played its three West Division games at South Alabama's Stanky Field, and is 1-2 in the conference.

Coach Joel Murrie will see if the home magic holds true this weekend as the Blazers come to Denes Field for a 3-game series. UAB and Western will play a pair Saturday afternoon, starting at 1 p.m. Sunday's single game will also be at 1 p.m.

"It's a surprising where they're at," said Murrie of UAB's division-leading 2-0 record. "But, when you look at the track record of home and away in the Sun Belt it's not too surprising. We just need to keep that up at home."

The Hilltoppers will be trying to break a 2-game losing streak this weekend and give Murrie his 300th career victory. They weren't too successful at home Thursday, los-

UAB at WESTERN

TEAMS: Alabama Birmingham (18-10-1, 2-0 in the SBC West Division) vs. Western (25-14, 1-2 in the SBC West Division)

SITE: Denes Field

GAME TIMES: 1 p.m. Saturday; 1 p.m. Sunday

RADIO: WDNS-FM

ing 7-3 to Kentucky.

Western (25-14) was lacking at the plate, and Murrie said improvement there will be a key this weekend.

"When they pitched themselves into trouble, we couldn't take advantage. Against UAB, we need to play the other phases of the game the same way, and just take charge of the game at the plate," Murrie said.

UAB lost at Vanderbilt Thursday night, dropping its overall record to 18-10-1.

Coach Pete Rancont's club has the top hitter in the SBC in Dan Swatek, who was batting .465 going

into this week. The Blazers' first baseman is joined in the conference's top five by teammate Mike Mink. UAB's senior outfielder is hitting .383, and was named SBC Player of the Week after hitting .636, going 7 for 11 in three games.

Right-hander Kim Hargett is 5-1 on the mound for UAB. Left-hander Troy Taylor is fourth in the conference in complete games with four. UAB has the third-best team ERA in the conference with 3.97.

Topper tidbits

Daren Kizziah, Saturday's scheduled starter in the second game, is third in the league with 58.3 innings pitched. The junior right-hander is second in the league in wins with a 5-4 record.... Murrie will pitch Steve Bercler (1-2) in the first game Saturday. Jeff Ledogar will go for the Hilltoppers in Sunday's game.... Left fielder Pete Davids is the leading hitter on the team with more than 100 at-bats with a .346 average. Davids' average is good for 10th in the conference. His 44 hits rank third in the league.... Davids and catcher Mike Latham lead Western in RBI with 25 each....

play on a ball hit by

UK uses long ball to stop WKU

By MARK C. MATHIS

Daily News Sports Editor
Kentucky hit 88 home runs in 55 games last year.

The Wildcats haven't been on as torrid a hitting pace this year, getting a meek 28 homers in 27 games.

But, against Western, contending with a swirling, gusting wind, the Wildcats returned to their old form Thursday.

First baseman John Marshall stung the Hilltoppers with two blasts — that after not reaching the fences since Feb. 28 — to lead Kentucky to a 7-3 victory in front of a good crowd at Deneb Field.

"We were fortunate we got the long ball going. That's what made the difference," Kentucky coach Keith Madison said. "We've been hitting the ball fairly well. But not like last year."

Mark Blythe punctured Western pitching for another long blast with a man on to cap off a 4-run fourth inning that shut down much chance for Coach Joel Murrie to pick up his 300th victory at Western.

That put the Wildcats, now 15-13 overall and in fourth-place tie in the Southeastern Conference at 8-4, up 5-0 with barely a wimper from the Hilltoppers.

"A big inning is going to hurt against a good ballclub," Murrie said. "We looked a little anemic at the plate. We didn't seem to have any enthusiasm. Maybe, I do downplayed it too much, but I do that with every game. The worst

KENTUCKY 7 WESTERN 3

RECORDS: Kentucky 15-13, Western 25-14.
VITAL STATS: Kentucky only had six hits in the game, but four were for extra bases. The Wildcats hit Western pitching for three home runs, two by John Marshall. Western was anemic at the plate, getting just four hits.

KEY PLAYS: Doubles in the fourth inning by Darin Rieman and Rick Norton accounted for two Kentucky runs. A Mark Blythe 2-run homer capped off a 4-run fourth inning that buried Western under a 5-0 deficit. With the bases loaded and Gary Mueller hit into a double play, the Hilltoppers loaded the bases again in the inning, but stranded the three men on.

NEXT GAME: Kentucky hosted Youngstown State today and hosts a 3-game SEC weekend series with Vanderbilt. Western hosts Alabama Birmingham for a double-header Saturday and a single game Sunday in a Sun Belt Conference series.
010 401 010-7 6 2
000 012 000-3 4 0
WP—Roy Bailey (1-1), LP—Jeff Ledogar (1-1)

thing you can do is get pumped up and then lose."

So, the Hilltoppers, now 25-14 overall, lost without getting all pumped up about it, thinking instead of their important 3-game home set with Alabama Birmingham this weekend.

Both UK and Western were looking ahead to their respective weekend conference series, as each team used five pitchers. The Wildcats face Vanderbilt this weekend.

And both coaches gave the other's pitching staffs much of the credit on a day when their were only 10 hits between the teams.

"I was very much impressed with Western's pitching staff," Madison said. "They all came in and threw strikes."

The teams combined for 19 strikeouts, with UK recording 10.

"I give a lot of credit to their pitching staff. They kept us off stride. Their pitches had movement on them. And we didn't swing the bat or be very aggressive," Murrie said.

Marshall was extremely aggressive on his second homer, an opposite field job that lifted UK to a 6-1 lead. Marshall also started the scoring by taking a Jeff Ledogar pitch over the right-center field wall in the second inning.

Western finally got a rally going in its half of the sixth, ironically enough against Tom Deller, a Bowling Green product who has been a key component in UK's rise in the SEC.

Juan Galan started the inning off by reaching on a throwing error by UK shortstop Billy White.

Deller lost control from there, issuing two straight walks to Stan Cook and James Wambach before White made amends by starting a

double play, retiring Wambach and Gary Mueller.

A strange play on a ball hit by Mike Latham scored Galan. Second baseman Vince Castaldo made a bad throw on the ball hit by Latham, allowing him to reach and Galan to score.

Deller walked two more Hilltoppers, scoring Cook with the second run of the inning, then loading up the bases.

To no avail, Mike Cash grounded out to end the threat.

Two wild pitches by Otis Lewis allowed Castaldo to cross with the final run of the day.

No Western pitcher worked more than two innings. And Ledogar, the starter, was the only one of the Sun Belt Conference rotation to see action.

"I didn't care if the guy's got a no-bitter going. They had a certain number of pitches and that was it," Murrie said.

Of UK's six hits, four were for extra bases. Doubles by Darin Rieman and Rick Norton in the fourth inning scored two runs.

When UK needed the long ball, it got it.

WKU gives Murrie No. 300

D.N. 4-10-88

By MAC BROWN

Daily News Sports Writer

One win was easy and the other was close, but Western's Hilltoppers swept their baseball double-header against Alabama Birmingham at Denes Field Saturday, and, in the process, gave Coach Joel Murrie his 300th win.

WESTERN 10
UAB 1

WESTERN 7
UAB 5

RECORDS: Western 17-14 (3-2), UAB 18-12-1 (2-2)

VITAL STATS: Batting was about even in the first game with Western holding onto a 10-8 lead. The margin in the second game was 8-5 in Western's favor. There were only six errors in the two games. Western had one in the first game and two in the second. Western collected four home runs that drove in six runs and UAB answered by hitting one homerun that drove in three runs.

KEY PLAYS: Western scored four runs in the first inning. After that the Blazers' momentum was doused. Gary Mueller nailed a 2-run homer in the sixth inning of the second game that gave Western its winning edge.

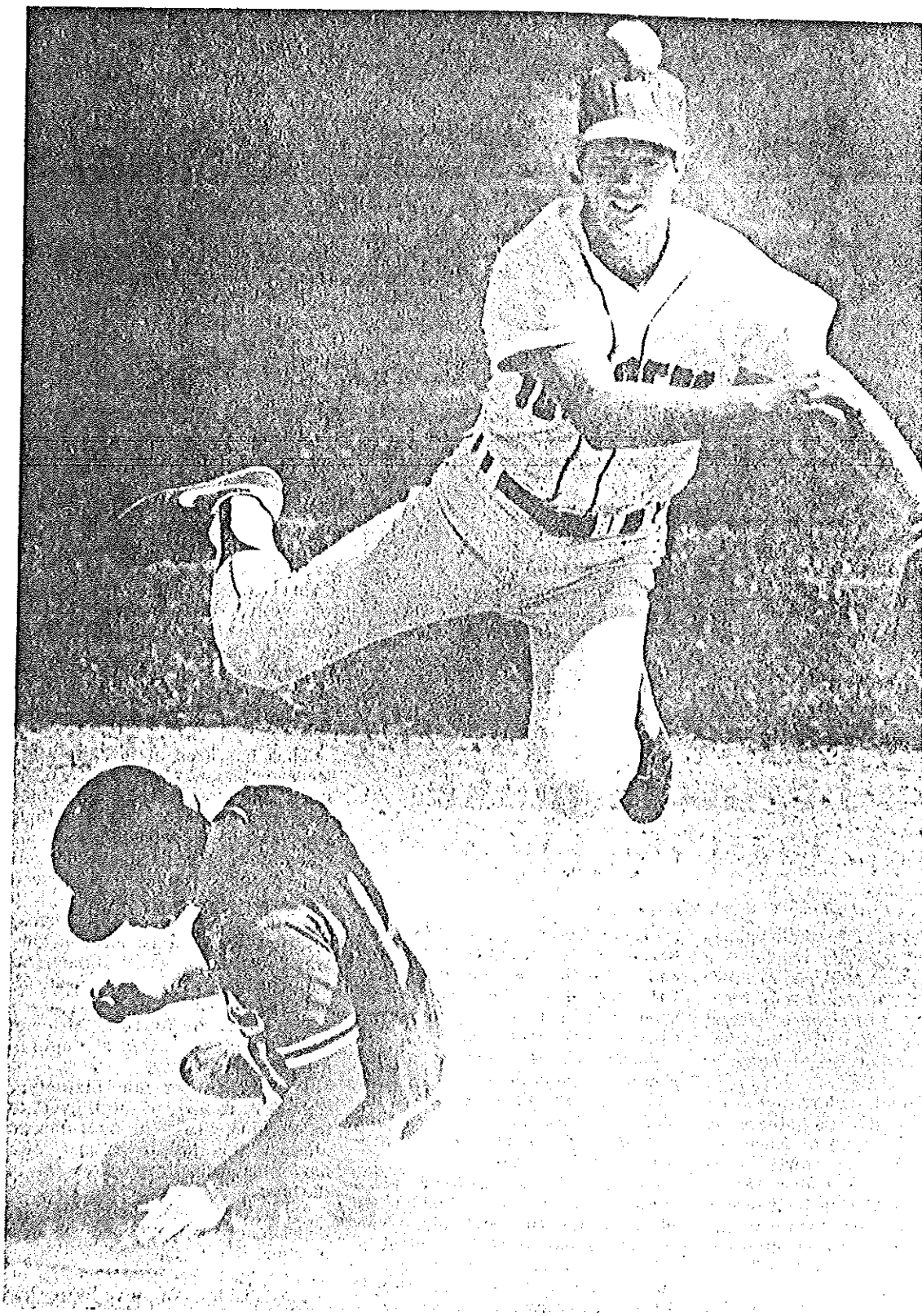
NEXT GAME: Western and UAB will conclude their series today with one game at 1 p.m.

Western	413	200	X-10	10	1
UAB	000	001	0-1	8	2
WP-Steve Bercier (2-2), LP-Steve					
T h o m a s (1 - 2)					
Western	202	003	X-7	8	2
UAB	011	000	3-5	5	1
WP-Daren Kizziah (6-4), LP-Glenn					
C h e n o t (4 - 3)					

"Now, it's just another day," Murrie said modestly after the wins. "It may be a big deal when I'm out of baseball, but now the only thing significant about winning 300 games is that I've been blessed with a lot of good athletes.

"After all, coaches don't win any

Continued On Page 18
Column 1, This Section



(Photo by Jason)

Double play

D.N. 4-10-88

MIKE CASH of Western turns the first half of a double play Saturday against Alabama Birmingham

at Denes Field as Craig Ray slides into second. Western swept a double-header from the Blazers.

KU ves urrie 300

D.N. 4-10-88

By MAC BROWN
Daily News Sports Writer
It was easy and the other
se, but Western's Hilltop-
cept their baseball double-
against Alabama Birm-
at Denes Field Saturday,
the process, gave Coach
rie his 300th win.

ERN 10
1

ERN 7
5

5: Western 17-14 (3-2), UAB 18-

ATS: Batting was about even in
ame with Western holding onto a
The margin in the second game
Western's favor. There were on-
rs in the two games. Western had
first game and two in the second,
collected four home runs that
sx runs and UAB answered by
e homerun that drove in three

YS: Western scored four runs in
inning. After that the Blazers'
n was doused. Gary Mueller nall-
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me that gave Western its winning

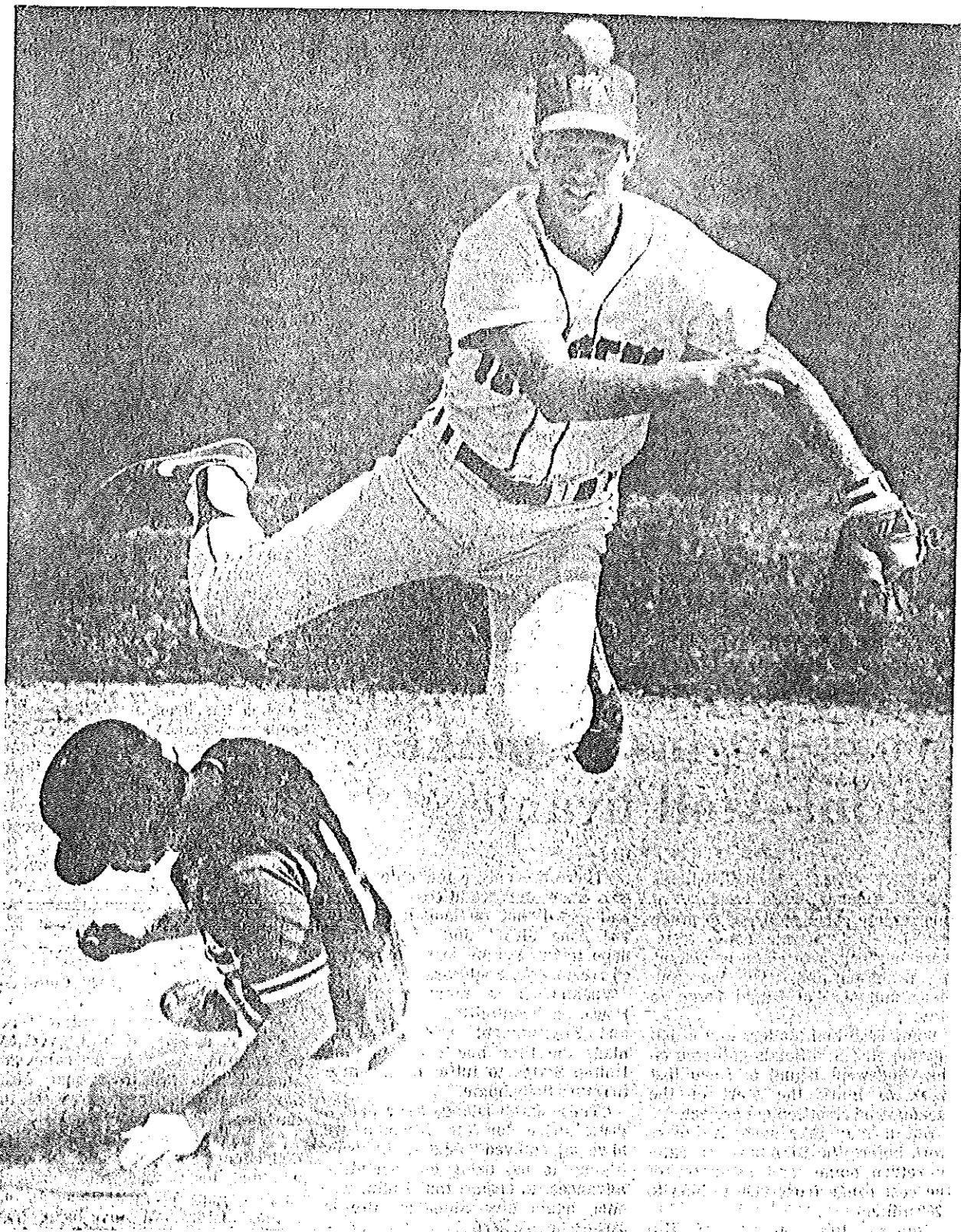
ME: Western and UAB will con-
series today with one game at 1

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Bercier	(2-2)	LP-Steve		
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"It's just another day,"
said modestly after the
may be a big deal when
of baseball, but now the on-
significant about winning
is that I've been blessed
in good athletes.

all, coaches don't win any

Continued On Page 18
Column 1, This Section



(Photo by Jason Hallmark)

Double play

D.N. 4-10-88

MIKE CASH of Western turns the first half of a
double play Saturday against Alabama Birmingham

at Denes Field as Craig Ray slides into second base.
Western swept a double-header from the Blazers.

Murrie gets 300th win

D.V. 4-70-88

Continued From Page 14-A

ballgames. The players win the games."

The 300th win came in the first game of the Sun Belt Conference West Division series and Western didn't have to muster much of an effort to get it. After the first inning it led the Blazers 4-0, and by the top of the fifth inning it led 10-0.

Western (27-14 and 3-2) got 10 hits then, including a 1-run shot by Chris Turner — his 10th of the season — over the left-field wall.

"Their outfielders were playing a little shallow, and it surprised us that they gave us room to hit over them," Turner said. "Sometimes it seemed like the balls had eyes and they fell in the holes."

James Wambach and Gary Mueller accompanied Turner in the home run club when they hit back-to-back homers over the right-field fence to start off the Hilltoppers' fourth inning.

"I pretty much knew it was over the fence when I hit it," Mueller said. "All I was worried about was whether it was going to stay fair or not."

"I just hope we saved a few for the second game. You never know when you score that many runs whether you can keep it going in the second game."

After that, the Hilltoppers slowed down a little bit, but Murrie wasn't worried.

"With a 10-1 lead the guys maybe humped up a little bit and went for the long ball," he said.

"It's easy to go up there and un-

button your shirt and go after the pitches, and I've got no problems with that."

Mueller kept his intensity going in the second game when he knocked a 2-run shot over the fence in the bottom of the sixth inning to give Western a 7-2 lead.

"The way we've been playing, a 2-run lead is good, but it's never enough. We need that extra insurance," he said.

The insurance came at the right time because UAB shortstop Eric Cullens drove a 3-run shot over the right center field fence on the Blazers' next at bat, putting them back in the chase.

"We had the right people up to bat in that situation, we had our three, four and five batters up," Blazer coach Pete Rancont said after his team dipped to 18-12-1 and 2-2. "But, those things just happen and we just didn't do it."

Cullens drove in the runs before the Blazers had collected any outs, but Murries said he never broke a sweat over whether or not the game would go into extra innings.

"We were never concerned," he said. "All we had to do was keep the pressure on, because in college baseball you can never have enough runs."

"The most important thing to do on the road is to not get swept," Rancont said. "I tried to tell my players after we got kicked real good in the first game that the second game was a new game."

"Now, I'm going to have to do the same thing tonight."

Hilltoppers make Good on errors to stop Blazers

4-11-58

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

Alabama Birmingham didn't play the kind of baseball Sunday it had to beat South Florida twice last weekend.

The Blazers played virtually errorless ball in that sweep.

UAB did the exact opposite against Western at Dene's Field, and with the Hilltoppers taking advantage at every turn, they swept the Sun Belt Conference West Division series with a 9-4 win.

More importantly, it tied the Hilltoppers, at 28-14 overall and 4-2 in the division, with South Alabama, 6-3, after the Jaguars swept South Florida (2-6) over the weekend.

"We got the 2-run homer and felt it would be a great day," UAB coach Pete Rancout said. "But, we didn't play defense the way we're capable of. A couple of balls hit to center maybe should've been caught. But I like Joel's (Murrle) ballclub. They play hard here for him."

That, pretty much, summed up the game.

It looked early like Western might be in for a long afternoon when Scooter Sanderson uncorked a full-count Jeff Ledogar offering over the right-field wall with Eric Cullens on in the first inning.

That, however, was a pleasant memory when Mike Cash hit a shot to right-center that sent center fielder Scott Hatch scrambling then sprawling as the Western shortstop almost ran over Pete Davis leg-

WESTERN 9 UAB 4

RECORDS: Western (28-14, 4-2); UAB (18-13-23).
KEY PLAYS: Scooter Sanderson hit a 2-run homer to put UAB up early. But Western came back in the third inning with a 2-run, in-the-park home run by Mike Cash. Scott Hatch dropped a Mike Latham drive in the fourth inning, allowing Stan Cook to score and igniting a 4-run fourth inning.
VITAL STATS: Despite getting nine hits, UAB scored only four runs. The Blazers left eight men on, and left the bases loaded in the second inning. Western left 10 men aboard. Four errors killed UAB. Heath Haynes (6 Ks) and Jeff Ledogar combined for 10 strikeouts for Western.
NEXT GAME: Western was scheduled to play at Middle Tennessee tonight at 7 p.m. UAB has two days off before traveling to Jacksonville State Wednesday.

ing out an in-the-park homer in the third inning.

"I was just running. I was trying to catch him," Cash said. "I was thinking three. But they were waving me home."

And while that lit the fire, the fourth inning blew the Blazers, then leading 3-2, away.

Hatch was again the match, dropping a Mike Latham drive that allowed Stan Cook to tie the game. A James Wambach double scored Latham with what would be the winning run. Then, starter Troy Taylor mishandled a dinker hit by Randy Kotchman, allowing Gary Mueller to score. Wambach came in on a sacrifice fly by Davids.

Four runs on one hit. Western

Western sweeps UAB

D.N. 4-11-58
Continued From Page 8

was up 6-3 and not looking back it dropping UAB to 18-13 and 2-3.

"We played excellent team baseball," Murrle said. "It's the kind we need to play. Everybody did the little things."

Little things like, after getting off to another rocky start, Jeff Ledogar settling down to record four strikeouts and get numerous popouts, while still giving up five walks. Like Heath Haynes, the fourth starter in the rotation, striking out six and walking none while holding UAB to just one more run in the last three innings.

"It staken me awhile, but I finally got it going today," Haynes said.

Western pitching also did a good job of keeping .455 clean-up hitter Dan Swatek from doing much damage for UAB by taking away

his table setters — Craig Ray, Eric Cullens and Sanderson — most of the afternoon. Swatek still got on three times and scored once.

Western finished off the barrage in the fifth inning. Cook was hit by a pitch and later scored on a Kotchman bounce that should've been a double-play ball for UAB, but was badly thrown by Ricky Foster at second. Latham was walked in by Kim Hargett. Juan Galan was walked in in the eighth inning for Western's final run.

And, now the Hilltoppers, with a road trip to South Florida looming this weekend, are on the verge of 30 wins in early April after winning only 28 all of last year. They are also competing for the division title and the hosting of the conference tournament that goes with it.

"It's going to come down to who can win on the road, and more importantly, who can not get swept on the road," Murrle said. "Twelve wins will win the league."

South Alabama is halfway there. Western isn't far behind.



(Staff Photo by LaMar Weaver)

Congratulations

GARY MUELLER (left) accepts congratulations for his 2-run home run in the sixth inning of Western's 7-5 win over Alabama Birmingham Saturday at

Denes Field. The Hilltoppers won again Sunday 9-4 to sweep their weekend series with their Sun Belt Conference foe.

D.N. 4-11-88

Toppers playing as well as they can right now

4-12-88

Western played about as well as it could during last weekend's baseball series with Alabama Birmingham.

Coach Joel Murrie even said as much after the Hilltoppers swept UAB at Denes Field with a 9-4 win Sunday.

And, as well as they could play was pretty darned good.

Western pounded out 26 runs on 25 hits over a weekend that saw the Hilltoppers work themselves into a tie with South Alabama for the Sun Belt Conference West Division lead.

Western also got pretty good defense and strong pitching against the Blazers, who had swept South Florida two weeks ago.

"I don't think we could improve on anything," Murrie said Sunday. "We made mistakes, but when you put it all in a hat and pull it out and say 'Pitching? No, we did a good job. Defense? We did a good job. Hitting? We did a good job.' So, in every facet of the game, we did the job necessary to win."

Now, Murrie's squad (28-14) sits perched on the 30-win plateau, one it can achieve with wins over Middle Tennessee today and Vanderbilt Wednesday at Denes Field, which has given new meaning to "friendly confines."

Then, the Hilltoppers will go to Tampa for a huge series with South Florida, the apparent — and surprising — doormat in this West Division race.

Western has another road series in the West Division, at UAB, before returning to Denes Field for the last two divisional series of the year — against South Alabama and against South Florida the last weekend of the regular season.

At least one win each in Tampa and Birmingham will give the Hilltoppers the West Division title if Western sweeps those last two conference series at home.

Murrie says 12 wins will bring home the West Division crown, and the home-field advantage in the SBC Tournament May 18-21. The winner of the West Division gets to host the tournament.

The Hilltoppers are already one on the road, having beaten



Mark C. Mathis

Daily News
Sports Editor
Commentary

South Alabama in Mobile in the first divisional series of the season.

"Winning the third game was important for us, because it makes up for losing the third game at South Alabama," Murrie said. "If you win two out of three in every series, you're going to win the league. Everything is in the loss column. Until you lose them, you're still in it."

Can't pitch around

One reason Western is in this race up to its neck is balance. Team baseball is what Murrie calls it.

Five Western batters had between 27 and 34 RBI before Sunday's game, led by Gary Mueller. Three more Hilltoppers were at 19 RBI. There's a decent hitter in nearly every spot in the lineup. There's no pitching around anybody on this team.

And Murrie's pitching by committee, while it may keep the official scorer guessing, has worked well most of the year.

Right-handed starter Steve Bercier has the lowest ERA among the conference starters at 3.34. But he also has a rotator cuff problem.

An injury has also kept starting right-fielder Gerald Ingram on the bench. A strained quadracep kept Ingram out of Sunday's game with UAB.

What, no car?

Murrie still wasn't making a big deal out of getting his 300th win in Saturday's first victory of the double-header sweep over UAB.

"I don't see any car out there," Murrie quipped. "I'm still waiting to get my raise like everybody else."

At Bowling Green, Ky.
Middle Tennessee 201 020 010—6 12 0
Western Kentucky 000 100 001—2 7 1
George Zimmerman and Dick Martin;
Daren Kizziah, Otis Lewis (4), Steve Bercier
(9) and Mike Latham. W — Zimmerman (2-
2), L — Kizziah (6-5). 2B — Chris White-
head (MTS). HR — Mike Messerly (MTS),
Gary Mueller (WKU). Records — Middle
Tennessee St. 20-18-1, Western Kentucky,
28-15. C.J. 4-13-88

Hilltoppers lack intensity in loss to Middle Tenn.

4-13-88

By JOE MEDLEY
Daily News Sports Writer

First base seemed more than 90 feet away. Second base seemed on the next continent.

It was frustrating for Western's baseball team. The same team that scored 26 runs in one game last week. The same team that swept Sun Belt Conference foe Alabama Birmingham over the weekend playing near perfect baseball, and the same Hilltoppers who usually punish the baseball and win at home.

But, as sometimes happens when the conference schedule takes hold, 'meaningless' games like that against Middle Tennessee Tuesday at Denes Field can become a showcase of mediocrity.

Especially when they follow and precede some of the biggest games of the season.

It was 6-2, MTSU.

"Intensity was down because we came off a big weekend," said Gary Mueller, the only Western batter who touched the Blue Raiders' George Zimmerman. Mueller hit a ninth-inning solo home run to provide the final margin and went 3 for 4 on the day. "We know we have to be up for these non-conference games, especially if we're going to reach our goal of 42 wins. We'll just have to do better in the future."

The Blue Raiders (20-18-1) got a complete game out of Zimmerman, who rarely goes more than six innings and doubles as a designated hitter.

The Hilltoppers (28-15) never found the off-speed Zimmerman. He threw what looked like remote control pitches that started behind Western batters and ended up somewhere in the strike zone.

"I felt better and more confident pitching today than I have all season," Zimmerman said. "I had a good year last year, but I've had

MIDDLE TENN. 6 WESTERN 2

RECORDS: Middle Tennessee 20-18-1, Western 28-15.

KEY PLAYS: RBI singles in the first inning by Chris Whitehead and George Zimmerman brought in Mike Young and Ed Pye for Middle Tennessee. Pye scored the winning run while giving the Blue Raiders a 2-0 lead.

VITAL STATS: Western was limited to seven hits — all singles save for Gary Mueller's ninth-inning home run — and 10 base runners.

NEXT GAME: Western will host Vanderbilt at Denes Field today at 3:30 p.m.

MTSU 201 020 010-6 12 0
Western 000 100 001-2 7 1
W—Zimmerman (2-2). L—Klizziah (6-5).

some trouble in the middle innings this year. I never really worried when the fifth and sixth innings came around today, because I knew I had my stuff from the early going."

Zimmerman (2-2), a 6-foot-5 sidewinder, struck out three Hilltoppers and allowed only seven hits, all singles save for Mueller's homer. Western managed 10 base runners and touched second base only five times as Zimmerman got it to poke several high and harmless infield flies and ground balls.

"In baseball, you have to make adjustments," Western coach Joel Murrie said. "He came at us with the off-speed stuff, and we just never adjusted."

"I think we have a talented ballclub that can hit, especially here at home where the ball carries well. But that pitcher completely dominated us. We never threatened him."

Western sat down for four 1-2-3 innings. It put two men on base in the third and sixth innings for naught. The sixth inning closed on a double play.

Continued From Page 1-B

4-13-88

Western's lone run before Mueller's blast, his fifth of the season, came after he moved from first to third on fourth-inning balks. He scored on a Gerald Ingram single to bring Western within 3-1.

But MTSU, which scored two runs in the first inning on RBI singles by Chris Whitehead and Zimmerman off of loser Daren Klizziah (6-5), posted two more in the fifth when Mike Masserly brought home Whitehead with a homer to right-center field.

"I wasn't worried when we fell behind 2-0," Murrie said. "But when the sixth or seventh inning came around and we still couldn't get anything going and were down 5-1, then I began to worry."

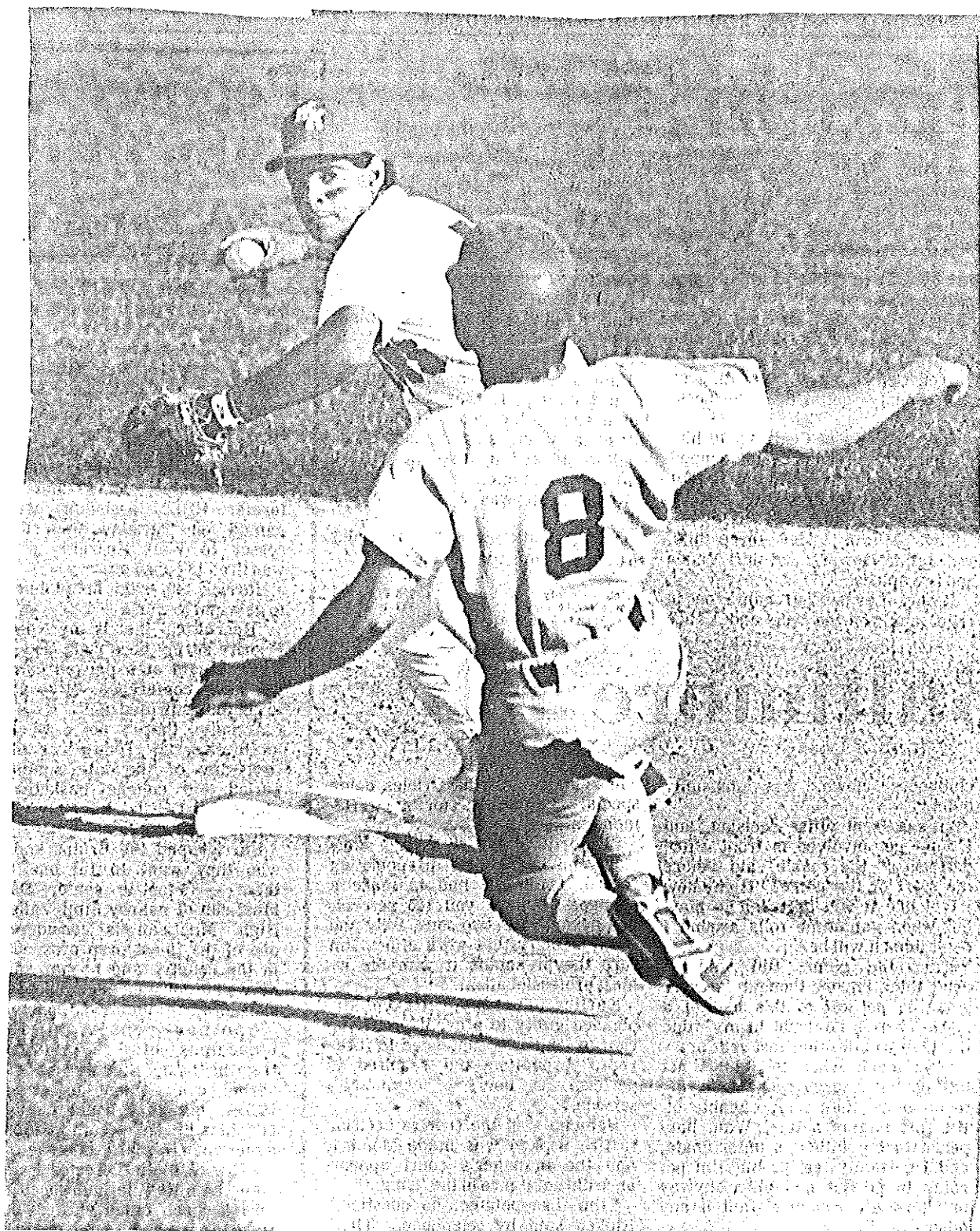
Masserly added the Blue Raiders' final run ahead of a Richard Martin single in the eighth inning.

"We didn't do anything magical today," Peterson said. "We went out and played solid baseball by making few mistakes and capitalizing on theirs."

Perhaps Western's biggest mistake was a lack of intensity. It'll need that back when Vanderbilt comes calling today at 3:30 p.m.

"I don't know how to explain this loss, other than to say it looked like they wanted to come out and play more than we did today," Murrie said. "You don't expect your ball players to just put on their uniforms and show up. We can't let this happen again, especially at home where we need to win as much as we can."

Continued On Page 5
Column 5, This Section



(Staff Photo by Kevin Eans)

Out at second

JUAN GALAN of Western throws to first after getting Middle Tennessee's Mike Young out at second during Tuesday's baseball game at Denes Field. The

Hilltoppers fell 6-2 to their former Ohio Valley Conference rival.

D.V. 4-13-88

Vandy wins again

4-14-88
By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

Western hasn't beaten Vanderbilt in this interstate, interconference, home-and-home series in eight games. The Hilltoppers haven't won one of these since 1983. But the two teams have played some interesting, fairly competitive games in that time.

VANDERBILT 10 WESTERN 6

RECORDS: Vanderbilt 22-14, Western 28-16
KEY PLAYS: Dede Malmo's triple to deep right field in the 11th inning scored three runs and finished Western off. Jim Schiffman scored the game-winning run on a single by Jamie Abbigy. Stan Cook's triple in the sixth scored three runs and gave Western its only lead of the game at 6-5. Vandy tied it in the eighth when Scott Logan scored on Schiffman's triple.
VITAL STATS: Vanderbilt had four triples in the game. Western left 12 men on base; Vandy left 11. Each team committed only one error. Western used six pitchers in the game.
NEXT GAME: Western starts a Sun Belt Conference West Division series with South Florida in Tampa Friday. The teams play one game each Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Vandy begins a Southeastern Conference series with Alabama Saturday in Nashville, Tenn.
Vanderbilt 000 320 010 04-10 16 1
Western 010 104 000 00-6 12 1
WP—Hoffman (3-1). LP—Cook (1-4).

This year's pair leap to mind.

The Hilltoppers fell 6-5 to Vanderbilt last week. Western lost again Wednesday, 10-6. But, it was definitely interesting.

Before Dede Malmo's triple in the bottom of the 11th scored three runs and sealed Western's fate at 28-16, the Hilltoppers came back from a 5-2 deficit in the sixth inning to take a 1-run lead.

"It was definitely a heated game today," Malmo said. "I'm glad we play them home and home because

Continued On Page 6
Column 3, This Section

Western falls to Vandy again

Continued From Page 1-B

it's always two nonconference games that are very good games," Western's big comeback wouldn't be so unusual otherwise, except that it looked like it needed a transfusion of Geratol after a 6-2 loss to Middle Tennessee on Tuesday. That after coming off its best 3-game set of the year last weekend against Alabama Birmingham.

"When we came out for pregame, whatever we had in us yesterday (Tuesday) was out of our system," Western coach Joel Murrie said. "They really wanted to beat Vanderbilt pretty bad today."

When designated hitter James Wambach started off the sixth with a towering home run off reliever Mike McLochin, then center fielder Stan Cook shot a triple of his own to left-center field that put the Hilltoppers up 6-5, it looked as if Western's wish might come true.

The seventh went smoothly for reliever Jeff Meier, but a 2-out triple scored Scott Logan, who led off the inning with a walk, and tied the game at 6-6.

Even though Western had the momentum after the sixth, Cook didn't think a 1-run lead would stand up.

"That just put us ahead by one with three innings left," Cook said of his triple. "That's what killed us. We just sat back after we got ahead and didn't put them away. We let them get back in the ballgame."

The Commodores went ahead about as quickly it took Malmo, a junior second baseman, to hit Don Enright's first offering deep in the right-field corner, scoring men Randy Cook had put on with three straight singles and a walk. Vanderbilt went up initially in the 11th when Jim Schiffman scored on Jamie Abbigy's single.

"I was looking fastball all the way. And I got a fastball on the inside," Malmo said. "He threw almost all fastballs in warmups. I got a good one right on the inside part of the plate."

Vanderbilt (22-14) built its 5-2 lead when Malmo and Mark Kruchten scored on singles in the fourth inning, and Abbigy was sacrificed home by Mark Kruchten before Malmo scored on a Logan triple in the fifth.

Western's bats finally woke up in the sixth. The Hilltoppers were hanging on the edge only because Gary Mueller scored on Pete Davids' double in the second, and Mike Latham came home on a passed ball by Kruchten, the Vandy catcher, in the fourth.

Wambach hit his homer with such authority to lead off the sixth that he stood and got a little Jeff Leonard time standing and watching the ball clear the right-field wall. Cook was left on third after

his 2-out triple finished off McLochin. Mueller was the only Western player not to bat in the sixth.

But, when it counted, Western couldn't get the hit it needed.

"When it was 6-6, I still thought we were in the game, with the last bats at home," Murrie said. "A key hit, and we're right back in it. But it just wasn't our day to get the big hit when it counted. When you look at the score and see 10-6, extra innings, you say 'Must have been a good ballgame.' But we only had one inning."

That was the fourth.

"We battled and hung in there real good," Vandy coach Roy Mewbourne said. "(Jeff) Hoffman did a great job of pitching for us. Malmo hit the ball in the clutch for us. It was a typical Vandy-Western game. They all seem to have been close games."

And fairly interesting.

Western gets sweep over South Florida

D. N. 4-18-88

WKU sports

TAMPA, Fla. — Western swept a big Sun Belt Conference West Division series here Sunday at South Florida with an 11-8 win. It was the first-ever SBC series sweep on the road for the Hilltoppers since they joined the league six years ago.

Western took over first place in the division at 31-16 and 7-2 in league play. South Florida is 21-25 (2-9).

Gary Mueller started things off early for Western with a 2-run homer in the first inning. It was the eighth homer of the year for the Hilltoppers' first baseman.

Mike Cash had four RBI, including a 3-run homer in the third inning. It was the fifth home run of the year for the Western shortstop.

Chris Turner was 3 for 5 with an RBI and two runs scored.

Stan Cook was also 3 for 5 on the day with an RBI and a run scored.

After four innings Western had all 11 runs and 13 hits.

Jeff Ledogar pitched masterfully for five innings, giving up only one earned run to go to 6-3.

Jeff Meier gave up a 3-run homer to Kenny Conrad in the eighth as South Florida tried to rally.

Western plays Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. against Austin Peay at Denes Field.

Western 324 200 000—11 14 1
South Florida 001 002 050—8 10 3
WP—Jeff Ledogar (6-3). LP—Mike Peters (3-5).

Men's tennis

NORFOLK, Va. — It was a day to forget.

Western placed seventh in the Sun Belt Conference Championships here Saturday. South Florida won with 62 points.

The only bright spot for Western was the fourth-place finish of Kurt Freyberger and Roland Lutz in the third-seeded doubles.

Otherwise, no Western player or doubles team finished higher than sixth place.

Here are results:

Team scores: South Florida 62, Alabama Birmingham 56, Old Dominion 52, South Alabama 50, Jacksonville 33, North Carolina Charlotte 26, Western 23, Virginia Commonwealth 22.

Singles: No. 1 Scott Vowells, seventh place; No. 2 Alay Deo, sixth place; No. 3 Roland Lutz, seventh place; No. 4 Kurt Swauger, sixth place; No. 5 John Rebol, sixth place No. 6 Kurt Freyberger, seventh place.

Doubles: No. 1 Vowells-Swauger, seventh place; No. 2 Deo-Rebol, eighth place; No. 3 Freyberger-Lutz, fourth place.

Women's tennis

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Western also finished seventh as South Alabama won the women's Sun Belt Conference Championships here last weekend.

South Florida was second; Old Dominion third; Alabama Birmingham fourth; Jacksonville fifth; UNCC sixth; and Virginia Commonwealth rounding out the field.

"Julie Ross was the only senior, and she won her last match. This was a very young team. They picked up some real goods experience this year," Western coach Ray Rose said.

Here are the results:

Singles: No. 1 Patricia Mahon, eighth place; No. 2 Amy LaLance sixth; No. 3 Julie Ross sixth; No. 4 Kelly Haskins sixth; No. 5 Julie Bowen sixth; No. 6 Anne Crafton seventh.
Doubles: No. 1 Mahon-Haskins eighth; No. 2 Ross-LaLance fifth; No. 3 Bowen-Natalie White sixth.

Track

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Western's men finished third in the 4x1,500-meter relay at the Dogwood Relays here Saturday.

The Hilltoppers ran the distance in 15:36.4.

SBC honors Mueller

D.N. 4-17-88

Western first baseman Gary Mueller has been named Sun Belt Player of the Week. Mueller is the first Hilltopper baseball player to win the honor this year.

Mueller went 12 for 22 (.545) at the plate last week with six extra-base hits, three home runs, six RBI and six runs.

One of his homers, a 2-run blast in the bottom of the seventh inn-

ing of Western's game against South Florida last Friday, sent the contest into extra innings. Western won 6-4 and swept the SBC West Division series.

Mueller is hitting .347 for the season with eight homers. He has 41 RBI and 59 hits, both team highs, to go with 41 runs. His run total is second best for Western.

COLLEGE SPORTS

Baseball

Western Ky. ... 626 020 020—18 17 2
Kentucky 000 010 220— 5 11 3
Heath Haynes, Oba Lewis (7), Jeff Meier (9) and Mike Latham, Derek Truss (7), Steve Dixon, John Ofstun (2), Jim Law (3), Roy Bayley (7), Bruce Wise (9) and Rick Norton. W—Haynes (5-1). L—Dixon (0-1). 2B—Mike Cash (W), Juan Galan (W), John Hampton (K), Darin Rieman (K). 3B—Stan Cook (W). HR—Juan Galan (W), Gary Mueller (W), Pete Davids (W), Darin Rieman (K). Records — Western 34-16, Kentucky 24-18.

C.J. 4-22-88

Western Ky. ... 007 531 012—28 27 1
Louisville 340 020 300—12 14 5
Darren Kizziah, Tony Compton (4), Jeff Ledogar (7) and Mike Latham, Derek Truss (8), Troy Patterson, Jimmy Downs (3), Dave Schaaf (4), Tim May (7), Jeff Mattingly (6), Doug Logsdon (9) and Todd Cooper. Tony Meeks (8). W—Compton (3-0). L—Patterson (2-7). 2B—Burkhart 2 (UL), Cook 2 (WKU), Cash (WKU), Latham (WKU), Davids (WKU). 3B—Davids (WKU). HR—Fiepke (UL), Hawke (UL), Galan 3 (WKU), Wambach (WKU), Turner (WKU), Mueller 2 (WKU), Cook (WKU), Gage (WKU), Curry (UL), Ingraham (WKU). Records — Louisville 12-28, Western Kentucky 33-16. 4-21-88

Toppers extend streak to four

4-20-88
By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

After four innings, it looked like the same old thing for Western's baseball team.

But after six innings, it was the same old thing for Austin Peay.

The Hilltoppers bombed Austin Peay 26-13 earlier this month in Clarksville, Tenn., tying a school record for runs scored in a game.

WESTERN 20 AUSTIN PEAY 7

RECORDS: Western 32-16, Austin Peay 17-22.

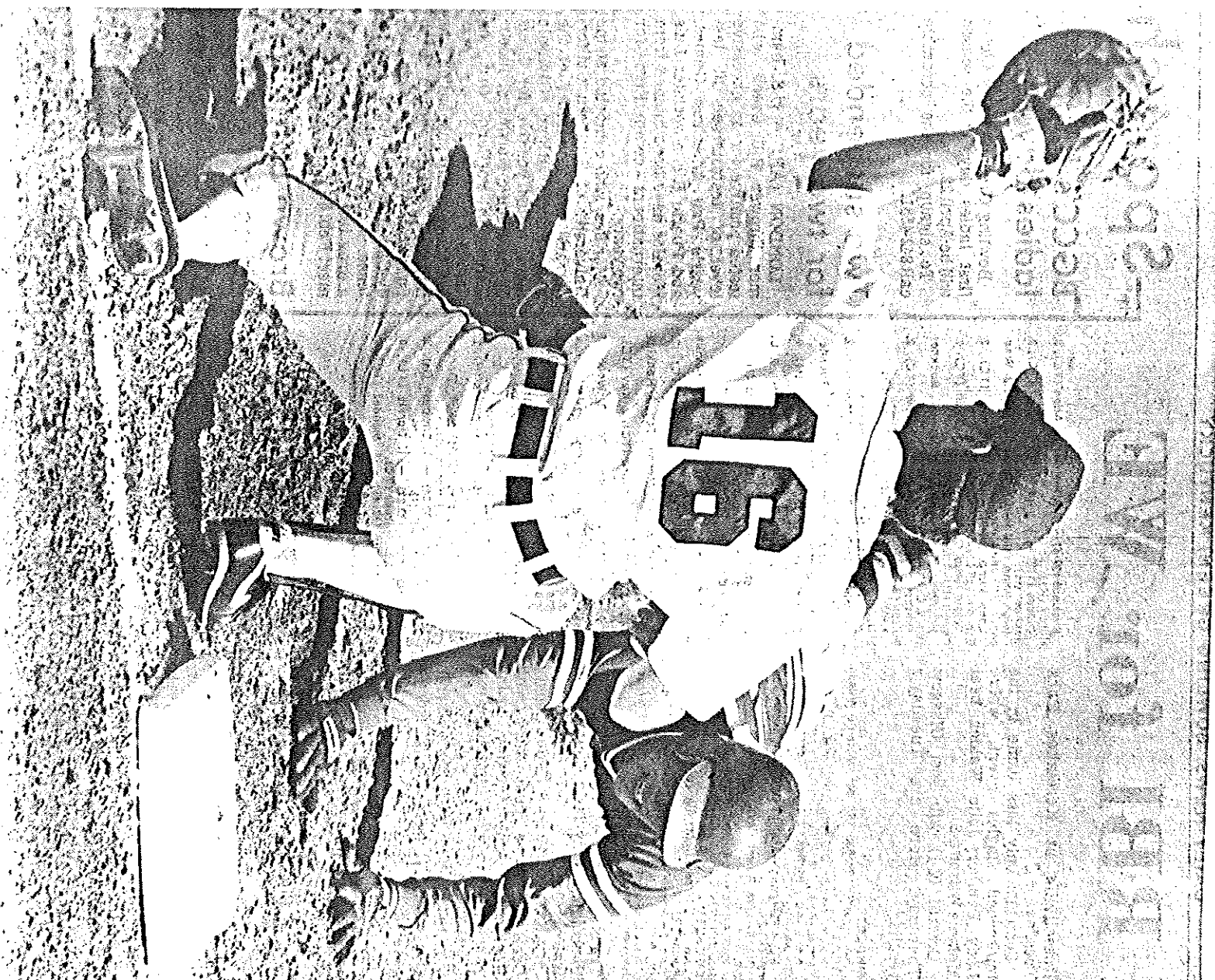
VITAL STATS: Juan Galan went 4 for 5 with a walk and scored five runs for the Hilltoppers. Pete Davids had three RBI for Western. Austin Peay reliever Cary Dunn gave up nine hits and 13 runs in the fifth and sixth innings. After scoring five runs in the fourth inning, the Governors only got one more man on base.

KEY PLAYS: Shane Buchanan's single scored two runs in a 5-run fourth inning for Austin Peay. Chris Turner hit a 3-run homer, his 12th of the year, to key Western's 6-run fifth inning. Stan Cook's 3-run spot was the highlight in a 7-run sixth for Western.

NEXT GAME: Western played today at Louisville, and travels to Lexington for a Thursday night game with Kentucky. Austin Peay 020 500 000-7 7 1 Western 020 167 21X-20 19 1 WP-Meier (3-0), LP-Dunn (2-4).

At Denes Field on Tuesday, Western did it again, rubbing the Governors noses in it 20-7 and extending its winning streak to four games heading into a 2-game swing through Louisville and Kentucky today and Thursday.

But, there was no way of knowing that would be the final when Austin Peay went up 7-3 in the fourth in-



Peay 26-13 earlier this month in Clarksville, Tenn., tying a school record for runs scored in a game.

WESTERN 20 AUSTIN PEAY 7

RECORDS: Western 32-16, Austin Peay 17-22.

VITAL STATS: Juan Galan went 4 for 5 with a walk and scored five runs for the Hilltoppers. Pete Davids had three RBI for Western. Austin Peay reliever Gary Dunn gave up nine hits and 13 runs in the fifth and sixth innings. After scoring five runs in the fourth inning, the Governors only got one more man on base.

KEY PLAYS: Shane Buchanan's single scored two runs in a 5-run fourth inning for Austin. Peay, which took a 7-3 lead over Western. Chris Turner hit a 3-run homer, his 12th of the year, to key Western's 6-run fifth inning. Stan Cook's 3-run shot was the highlight in a 7-run sixth for Western.

NEXT GAME: Western played today at Louisville, and travels to Lexington for a Thursday night game with Kentucky.

Austin Peay 020 500 000-7 7 1
Western 030 167 21X-20 19 1
WP-Meier (3-0), LP-Dunn (2-4).

At Denes Field on Tuesday, Western did it again, rubbing the Governors' noses in it 20-7 and extending its winning streak to four games heading into a 2-game swing through Louisville and Kentucky today and Thursday.

But, there was no way of knowing that would be the final when Austin Peay went up 7-3 in the fourth inning.

"The first thing I thought was that, after such a big weekend, you take these games in the middle of the week kind of lightly. That's what I thought was going to happen. But things started falling in for us little by little," said Juan Galan, who helped things happen by going 4 for 5 with a walk and scoring five runs.

The past weekend was a big one for Western, which swept three games from South Florida in a Sun Belt Conference series that put the Hilltoppers in first place in the West Division.

And the momentum lifted Western after a slow start against the Governors, who left town with a 17-22 worksheet.

"When you catch that much momentum from one series, it just



Dive and catch

JIMMY WAGGONER (right) of Austin Peay dives poised to catch a pick-off attempt Tuesday at Denes back into first base as Western's Gary Mueller is Field. Western bombed the Governors 20-7.

(Staff Photo by Kevin Eans)

kind of carries over," said Galan, Western's second baseman.

And Galan's hitting carried over to right fielder Pete Davids and designated hitter James Wambach, who had three hits each.

Chris Turner and Stan Cook didn't do as much in the quantity department, but when it came to effect, these guys were about as subtle as an atomic bomb.

Turner, the freshman third baseman from Warren Central, took a Gary Dunn fastball out to Russellville Road with two men on, putting Western up 10-7 in the fifth

inning.

Cook, a senior center fielder, wasn't outdone, putting another Dunn offering over the wall with two on, capping off a 7-run sixth inning.

Dunn will never need a tattoo, because he got plenty of them in giving up 13 runs and nine hits in the fifth and sixth innings. Western had 19 hits off six Austin Peay pitchers in the game.

"I was surprised he gave me a fastball, because he had two strikes on me," said Turner after hitting his team-high 12th homer of the

year. "I wasn't looking fastball. Luckily, it went out for me."

Luck didn't have much to do with Western getting back in this game, Dunn walking three, giving up two doubles and a single before Turner's shot did. Davids' double that scored Chris Gage and Galan tied the game at 7-7.

"I knew if we ever got in their bullpen that we would score," said Western coach Joel Murrie, whose team is now 32-16.

Continued On Page 5
Column 1, This Section

WKU bombs Governors D.N.

4-20-88

Continued From Page 1-B

Western came right back in the bottom of the second inning after Austin Peay took a 2-0 lead, picking up two runs on a Galan single and another on a Mike Cash sacrifice.

Austin Peay went up again, this time 7-3, when reliever Jeff Meier had some problems finding the plate. The senior right-hander gave up three walks and three singles in the inning, although he ran his record to 2-0. Western started the comeback slowly in the fourth, with Galan scoring on a Davids' single.

Then came the avalanche.

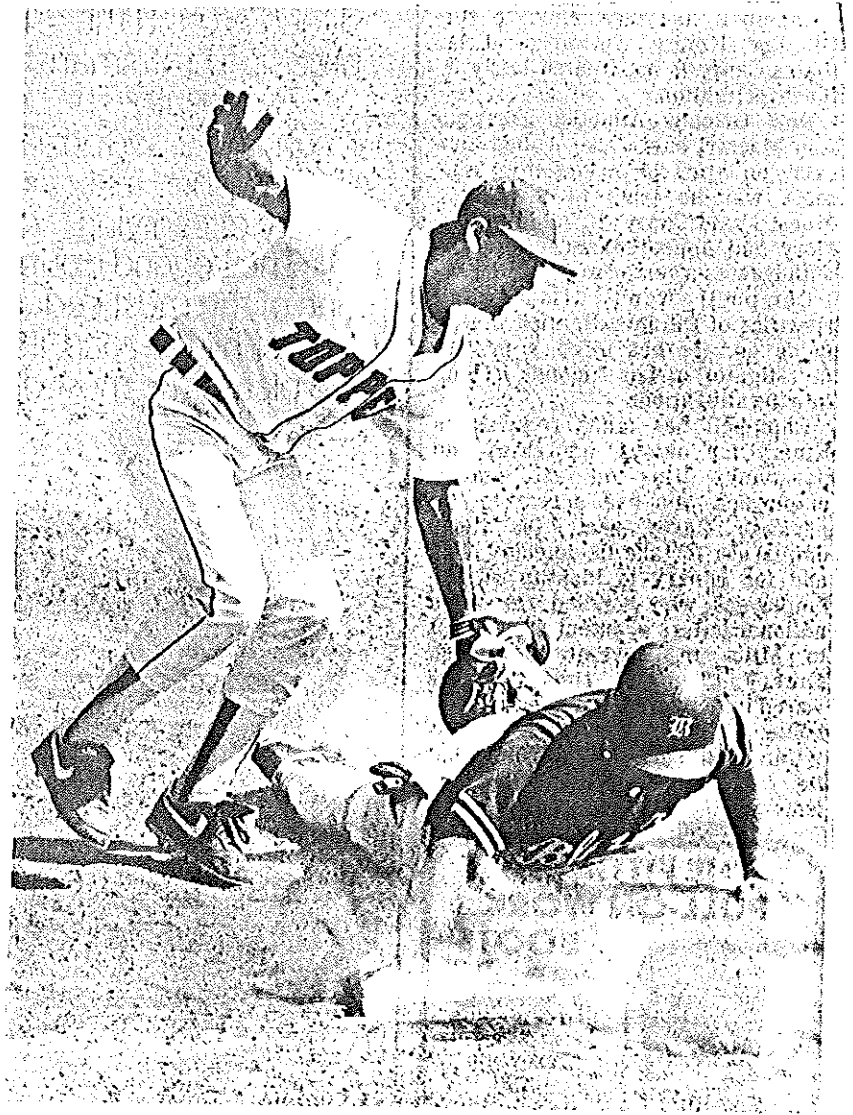
Unlike most games between SBC series, Murrie didn't feel Western was overlooking Austin Peay, or coming out in a funk after a big weekend.

"We put a 3-spot on the board. They came back and scored because Steve (Bercler) was having control problems," Murrie said of his starter.

Western had to fight from behind the whole weekend at South Florida. The trend continued Tuesday, but the attitude was definitely different.

"We came out a little flat," Cook said. "We picked up in the third and fourth inning and started doing some things we need to do. Every time we take the field we believe we're going to win. Call it cockiness, or confidence, or whatever. But that's what we believe."

The Hilltoppers certainly made believers out of Austin Peay.



(Staff Photo by Kevin Eans)

Two tags in one

D. N.
4-21-88
GARY MUELLER (left) applies a tag off of a pickoff attempt at first base during a Western win over Alabama Birmingham two weeks ago at Denes Field.

Hilltoppers having bash with baseball

4-21-88

The question for Juan Galan was a pertinent one.

"How many hits did you have today, about nine?" asked an Austin Peay player after Western had beaten the Governors 20-7 Tuesday at Denes Field.

Not quite. But Galan, a senior second baseman from Tampa, Fla., got four hits, drew a walk in his fifth at-bat and scored five runs for the Hilltoppers.

Not usually noted for his power, Galan kept it going Wednesday with three home runs at the short (395 feet to dead center field) Parkway Field in Louisville.

"Hitting is contagious. If one guy starts hitting, then the pitcher starts thinking more about it, like he has to pitch a little more specific to the next hitter. And that's when he starts making mistakes."

Like an annual flu bug, Western has been making opponents sick with its batting prowess. Western's 28-run outburst Wednesday in a 28-12 win over the Cardinals is evidence enough of that.

"This club is real surprising. You look at it and don't see the big mashers in the lineup, but we go out and score runs," Coach Joel Murrie said after Western hammered Austin Peay. "We've developed consistency at the plate. We're not striking out like we did earlier in the year."

Other factors have played a part in Western's sudden outbreak of hot bat disease.

Galan knowing his role as a table setter, and executing that role to the fullest. Gary Mueller, the Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week, being on one of his hot streaks for the last couple of weeks. Freshman Chris Turner



Mark C. Mathis

**Daily News
Sports Editor
Commentary**

reaching the fences 13 times this year with 12 games left to play.

Galan isn't one of the top hitters, by percentage, on the team, batting only .259. But he has been a key of late, getting on base, making things happen. He's the kind of player Murrie likes to have, and the kind Murrie himself was at Florida.

"He's a great example of how our team is playing right now," Murrie said. "When Juan fails to do the little things that are meant for him, that's when he goes into a slump. He's got to take pitches, draw walks, move people up. When he's not contributing, he overswings and is too anxious at the plate. Right now, he's doing a lot of things to help this ballclub. Unfortunately, those are things that don't get you in the headlines."

The kind of inning Murrie wants Galan to have might go like this: Galan draws a walk, steals second base, is driven home by one of Western's power hitters, who, like Murrie said, will get the headlines for driving in the run.

At the top of Western's hitting list is Mueller, a senior first baseman from Warren, N.J., who has a .347 batting average and batted .417 in Western's sweep of

South Florida last weekend.

"I was kind of surprised I got it," Mueller said recently of the honor. "I thought I had a better week last week. I had a few more RBI and bigger hits."

Mueller has been hitting big for about two weeks.

"We've been riding Gary's back for about the last week and a half. He's been unbelievable. Guys like

Gary and Juan carried us through the South Florida series, and we've all be hitting the ball a little better now," said Stan Cook, who's hitting .317.

Mueller has been the quintessential role player since he came to Western. He was a good shortstop in high school, but the same year he signed so did Randy Strijek, now in the Baltimore Oriole organization.

Mueller was moved to third base his freshman year, then to first,

and has been there since, except for 1985, when a knee injury forced him to miss that year.

"It wasn't that he lost that position (shortstop), he just never got a chance to play it," Murrie said. "It had to hurt him."

If it did, it hasn't shown up at the plate. Mueller leads the team and is among the SBC leaders in RBI as he closes in on 50. He also has 10 home runs.

"I've been hot and cold. I get hot as quickly as I've been bad, and then I get hot again. I'm kind of down on the year overall. I wish I had played more consistently," Mueller said.

Working on his stance has helped Mueller carry the ball more, instead of pulling it.

"When he doesn't put himself in

the hole swinging at bad pitches, he goes from being an average hitter to an outstanding hitter," Murrie said.

In only his first year of collegiate baseball, Turner has proved he possesses the power, although the Warren Central product is still learning, as his .302 batting average shows.

"He's playing right now on the fact that he's a very good athlete. That's really carrying him," Murrie said. "The things that Chris doesn't do right are parts of the game he's still learning. He's got so much baseball in front of him if he's willing to learn. He listens and takes advice very well."

And, if you've got a question about hitting, Western has plenty of advice.

WKU set for UAB

Continued From Page 1-B

Left-handed senior Troy Taylor is UAB's pitcher with the most work, going over 70 innings, including four complete games.

Kim Hargett, a junior right-hander has a 5-2 record.

Reliever Chris Chenot, another left-hander, is one of the strikeout leaders in the league with 57.

UAB is fourth in the conference in pitching with a 4.09 team ERA. Western ranks last in that category at 4.66.

Sweep hasn't been a dirty word for Western this week.

"The way we've been playing, we expect to win two," Mueller said. "What we really need to say to ourselves is that we need to win three. We can't be happy with two. If we win the first two and let up, then we haven't really accomplished much."

Topper hits

Freshman Chris Turner is leading the conference in home runs with 13. Turner's 48 runs scored is fourth in the league.... Gary Mueller leads the team in RBI with 44, putting him third in the conference. His 43 runs scored is eighth. His .347 batting average is good for 10th. His 61 hits is third.

4-22-55

Mueller's 15 doubles is good for fourth in the league in that category.... Catcher Mike Latham's 35 RBI is eighth in the conference.... Left fielder Pete Davids four triples rank him fifth in the conference.... Right-hander Darrin Kizziah is fourth in the conference pitching stats at 7-5. Kizziah's 72.1 innings pitched is good for sixth in the league.... Jeff Ledogar is right behind with a 6-3 mark.... Relievers Otis Lewis and Jeff Meier rank third and fourth, respectively, in saves with four each....

Western to take hot bats to UAB

4-22-55

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

Western has been living off the rush it got from sweeping South Florida for a week now.

The Hilltoppers have scored 66 runs since beating the Bulls in three Sun Belt Conference West Division games last weekend. Western has a 6-game winning streak going. It's playing the best baseball of the season. It's leading the West Division by a game and a half over South Alabama. Everything is going just right for Coach Joel Murrie's ballclub.

But, now, it's time to come down out of the sky and get on with Alabama Birmingham, Western's next SBC foe this weekend.

"Every year you look forward to one big series," said Gary Mueller, the Sun Belt Player of the Week. "Last year it was the Texas trip. This year it was South Florida."

The Hilltoppers, 34-16 and 7-2 in the division, now must forget winning those games — but not how they were won — and get ready for the trip to UAB. The series opens with a double-header at 12:05 p.m. Saturday, and wraps up with a 1 p.m. game Sunday.

Western has fought from behind to win every game this past week, except when it went up 14-0 in three innings Thursday night at Kentucky. And it would be fine with Murrie if the Hilltoppers won these three as easily as they did when UAB suffered a sweep at Denes Field a couple of weeks ago.

"We're having so much fun right now, the players think only Nolan Ryan can stop them," Murrie said this morning of the prolific run production his team has had this week. "I've never seen anything like it. All nine guys are hitting. When you're hitting like this, you have the people pitching doing

WESTERN VS. UAB

TEAMS: Western (34-16, 7-2 in the SBC West Division) - UAB (22-15, 3-5 in the SBC West Division)

SITE: Young Memorial Field, Birmingham, Ala.

TIMES: Saturday double-header 12:05 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m.

RADIO: none

some thinking to themselves. The ball looks like a watermelon up there."

He knows it won't be nearly as easy as this past week was, though.

"I'm concerned because I see a lot of potential in that ballclub," Murrie said of UAB. "They're capable of winning three games from us. But not if we play the way we have the last couple of weeks."

Consistency and players knowing their roles are what has set this Western team apart from the one that was taking the field as little as a month ago.

"They are staying within their capabilities," Murrie said.

When UAB was here for the first series, Coach Pete Rancon's club certainly didn't play as well as it could. Errors and missed opportunities hurt UAB.

Dan Swatek was leading the conference in batting until he came to Denes Field, and did little or nothing in the series. Swatek is now second at .433. The hefty junior right-hander is sixth in the conference in homers with seven.

Outfielder Mike Mink is third in the conference in hitting at .375.

Toppers take two from UAB

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Western cooled down Saturday and still managed to win a double-header — with plenty of room to spare.

D.V. WKU baseball 4-24-88

The Hilltoppers bested Sun Belt Conference West Division foe Alabama Birmingham 9-6 in the opener here and 10-2 in the nightcap to run their division record to 9-2 and overall mark to 36-16.

The wins extended Western's winning streak to eight games, the longest such streak of the season. The wins also gave the Hilltoppers a solid lead in first place over Idle South Alabama (6-3).

A 3-run home run by Gary Mueller and a 2-RBI single by James Wambach were the big blows in Saturday's opener. Mueller's homer tied the score at 4-4.

A 2-run triple by Juan Galan led a 3-run fourth-inning rally that gave Western the lead for good in the second game.

Tony Compton (3-0) got the first-game win, and Heath Haynes got his fourth save of the season.

Daren Kizziah (9-5) won the second, his fourth complete game of the season. He allowed two earned runs, seven hits and fou walks while striking out two Blazers.

Western will play the Blazers (20-19-1 and 3-7) in a single game today.

First game	
Western	000 135 0-9 8 1
UAB	000 402 0-6 5 1
W—Compton (3-0), L—Steve Thomas (2-3), S—Haynes.	
Second game	
Western	100 360 0-10 12 1
UAB	100 000 1-2 7 1
W—Kizziah (9-5), L—Scott Butterworth (2-1).	

WKU completes sweep

D. N. 4-25-88

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Western took a 2-game lead over South Alabama in the Sun Belt Conference West Division standings by completing a sweep over Alabama Birmingham here last Sunday.

The Hilltoppers came back from a 3-1 deficit and scored three runs in the 10th inning to beat the Blazers 8-5 and finish off the 3-game sweep. Western took two from UAB last Saturday. The Hilltoppers are riding a 9-game winning streak.

Western tied the game in the ninth on Juan Galan's 2-out RBI double that scored Derek Truss.

The Hilltoppers upped their

WKU baseball

record to 37-16 and 10-2 in the division when Mike Latham lashed a 1-out, 2-RBI double scoring Chris Turner and Stan Cook, both of whom had walked.

Jeff Meier went to 4-0 with the win in relief of starter Jeff Ledogar.

The Hilltoppers have today off before hosting Evansville at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

Western 100 020 011 3-8 10 1
UAB 102 002 000 0-5 9 2
WP—Meier (4-0); LP—Glenn Chenolf (4-4).

Hot hitting fuels Western title hopes

By BRUCE W. BRANCH
Staff Writer

Western Kentucky University baseball coach Joel Murrie doesn't like to put pressure on his team. It's a method that has allowed him to win 311 games, making him the winningest coach in Hilltoppers' history after just nine years at the helm.

The team also has won its last nine games, longest by a Western team since 1980, when the club enjoyed a 19-game roll. Thanks to its recent hot streak, Western has improved its record to 37-16 and moved into first place in the Sun Belt Conference's West Division with a 10-2 mark.

The Toppers have been swinging hot bats recently.

Consider:

■ During its recent nine-game winning streak, Western batters scored 118 runs on 131 hits, including 54 extra-base hits, 21 of which were homers, while batting .368. The

WESTERN'S NINE-GAME WINNING STREAK

THE SCORES

April 15: at South Florida, 6-4
April 16: at South Florida, 8-6
April 17: at South Florida, 11-8
April 19: Austin Peay, 20-7
April 20: at Louisville, 28-12

April 21: at Kentucky, 18-5
April 23: at Alabama-Birmingham, 9-6
April 23: at Alabama-Birmingham, 10-2
April 24: at Alabama-Birmingham, 8-5

THE STATISTICS

Player, position	AB	R	H	RBI	Extra base hits (HR)	9-Game Avg.	Season Avg.
Chris Turner, 3B	42	16	13	13	3 (3)	.309	.304
Stan Cook, CF	41	18	16	12	7 (2)	.390	.335
Mike Latham, C	33	11	12	17	6 (1)	.364	.327
Gary Mueller, 1B	39	14	15	18	9 (6)	.385	.350
James Wambach, DH	39	10	15	10	3 (1)	.385	.286
Gerald Ingram, RF	19	3	4	2	1 (1)	.210	.275
Juan Galan, 2B	38	17	19	16	9 (4)	.500	.305
Pete Davids, LF	39	13	18	9	8 (1)	.461	.342
Mike Cash, SS	34	12	12	10	4 (1)	.353	.311
Team (all players)	356	118	131	112	54 (21)	.368	.311

Hilltoppers have scored in double figures in five of the nine wins.

■ Last week, Western routed Austin Peay 20-7, Louisville 28-12 and Kentucky 18-5, collecting 66 runs and 67 hits while batting .468. The Toppers set a school record for runs and homers (11) against U of L.

One week earlier, they tied the record for runs (26) against Austin Peay. That record had stood since 1934, also against Austin Peay.

■ Senior second baseman Juan Galan, the

See TORRID HITTING
PAGE 3, col. 3, this section

Torrid hitting fuels Western

Continued from Page E 1

No. 7 batter in the order, has four homers and 15 RBIs in his last six games. Three of the homers came against Louisville. That tied a school record. The fourth round-tripper was a grand slam against Kentucky.

Galan, who has rapped a career-high eight homers, has batted .552 during his hot streak.

Western is averaging 10.6 runs while batting .311 for the season.

"It seems like everybody has been doing the job," Murrie said.

From cleanup-hitting first baseman Gary Mueller (.350, 12 homers), to the No. 9 batter, short-stop Mike Cash (.311), Western hitters have been terrorizing opposing pitchers.

According to Murrie, there are no "weak links" in a lineup that also includes freshman leadoff man and third baseman Chris Turner (.304), center fielder Stan Cook (.335), catcher Mike Latham (.327), Mueller, designated hitter James Wambach (.286), right fielder Gerald Ingram (.275), Galan (.305), left fielder Pete Davids (.342) and Cash.

Turner, who is from Warren Central High School, leads the Sun Belt with 13 homers. Cook is 18 of 18 on stolen-base attempts. Mueller tops

Western with 40 RBIs, followed by Davids with 39.

Murrie said the key to the Toppers' success is their consistency.

"When we play Kentucky or Louisville, there is no difference than when we play Austin Peay," Murrie said. "Our fans get a big kick out of it (beating other teams from the state). Most of our kids are not from Kentucky. They would just as soon beat Florida State or Alabama."

Western, which gained three-game road sweeps in the conference for the first time by turning the trick against Alabama-Birmingham and South Florida, can take a big step toward nailing down the division title when it meets South Alabama (32-15, 8-4) in a three-game series Friday, Saturday and Sunday at Nick Denes Field in Bowling Green, where Western is 22-5.

At stake is the right to hold the double-elimination Sun Belt Tournament May 18-21, which will be at the site of the West Division regular-season champion.

The top three teams in each of the two Sun Belt Divisions will advance to the playoffs, with the winner receiving an automatic berth to the NCAA Tournament.

"We're playing pretty good baseball," Murrie said. "We're two games up with six to go. I like the position we're in, and I hope we can take advantage of the success we've had at home. The best thing we can do is keep things in perspective."

Hilltoppers extend streak to 10 wins

The streak is now 10 in a row.

A solo home run by former Warren Central star Chris Turner in the seventh inning assured that for Western's baseball team at Denes Field Tuesday. The Hilltoppers beat Evansville 5-4.

Turner went 2 for 3 with a double and scored a run. The homer was his 14th of the season.

Gary Mueller went 3 for 4 with two doubles, and Stan Cook went 2 for 5 with a run-scoring single in the fifth inning.

Steve Bercier (3-2), the winner, pitched five innings and allowed no

runs and one hit. He struck out three and walked three before Coach Joel Murrie pulled him to rest him for the weekend series with Sun Belt West Division foe South Alabama.

Western (38-16) is 21-5 at home and will play at Evansville (28-15) tonight.

Evansville
Western
W-Bercier (3-2). L-John Schulteis (6-3). S-Jeff Meier (5).

000 002 101-4 8 1
100 021 10x-5 12 0

WKU baseball

WKU's streak ends

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — Andy Benes lived up to his billing as an All-American Wednesday.

He pitched a complete game and struck out nine Western batters while walking only two in an 18-3 win that ended the Hilltoppers' winning streak at 10 games.

Benes (11-2) has the third best ERA in the country (1.29) and is expected to go quickly in the baseball draft.

James Wambach and Mike Cash were the few Hilltoppers who could hit Benes. Wambach went 2 for 4, and Cash hit a solo home run in the eighth inning. It was his sixth

homer of the season.

Western had three errors that helped Evansville score nine runs in the fourth inning. Evansville (29-15) had six hits in the rally but scored only two earned runs.

Western (38-17) will host South Alabama Friday for the first game of a key Sun Belt Conference West Division series.

Western
Evansville
W-Benes (11-2). L-Kizziah (9-6).

000 100 011-3 7 5
020 902 32x-18 15 0

WKU baseball

South Alabama looking to cool Toppers' hot bats

4-25-88

By JOE MEDLEY
Daily News Sports Writer

It's been a long time since Western's baseball team has been in a series as big as this weekend's three-game set with South Alabama at Denes Field.

With the series, which gets underway Friday at 3 p.m. and shows single games Saturday and Sunday, comes a chance to clinch at least a tie for the Sun Belt Conference West Division title and possibly host the SBC Tournament. Western is 21-5 at home.

It's also a chance for the Hilltoppers (10-2 in the division) to reach their goal of 40 wins for this season, and maybe a chance at the NCAA Tournament.

"We know if we want to host the (Sun Belt) tournament, we need to play each day like that last three weeks," Western coach Joel Murrie said. "The kids just want to go out and prove they can beat South Alabama. That's all the kids are talking about."

"But we know we're on the verge of the NCAA. If we win four of the last six and play well in the tournament, we can get in. If we lose two in the tournament, it would give the committee a good excuse not to give us a bid."

But the series is just as big for South Alabama, which has many of the same things on the line Western has.

The Jaguars are 8-4 in the division and 34-15 overall.

USA at WESTERN

TEAMS: Western (38-16 overall and 10-2 in the SBC); South Alabama (34-15 and 8-4).

SITE: Denes Field.

START: 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 1 p.m. Sunday.

RADIO: WDNS-FM.

"We want to host the (SBC) tournament, and we know we have to go up there and win to do it," USA coach Steve Kittrell said. "It certainly is important, because I feel if we can win 40 games than maybe we can get two conference teams bids in the NCAA."

Western is just two wins away from the 40-win mark at 38-16.

The Hilltoppers have gotten to that position by winning 10 of their last 11 games. Western lost 18-3 Wednesday night at Evansville.

Western has done it with hot bats. The Hilltoppers have scored a season's total of runs in the 10-game winning streak. They scored 66 runs in three days.

But Western's staggering run output doesn't intimidate Kittrell.

"We're just going to come up and try to throw the way we have all season," he said. "We're not

Western playing for at least an SBC tie

4-25-88

Continued From Page 1-B

going to try anything special. We have to back up our pitchers. We can swing the bat too."

The key for USA will be how well it pitches Western at Denes Field.

Mike Zimmerman, a freshman who turned down three pro offers to go to college, will start Friday. He's 4-0 with a 3.18 ERA.

Phil Angelos (6-4, 3.67) will go Saturday, and Rafael Perez (8-3 and 4.08) is set for Sunday.

The Jaguars showed they can cool Western's bats when they took two of three games at Mobile, Ala., earlier this season.

"Our pitchers controlled them here fairly well," Kittrell said. "But that fact and the fact that we won two games means nothing to us now. The rule in the Sun Belt is that you should win at least two at home."

If Western goes by that rule, it will clinch at least a tie for the West Division crown.

Hitting is never a problem at Denes Field, and Western is batting .311 for the season as a team. One has to go eight players deep to find someone batting under .300, and only three Hilltoppers bat worse than .274.

But Western must stop the combination of Luis Gonzalez and Mike Mordecai.

Gonzalez, a 1986 All-American,

hits .350 with 10 home runs and 58 RBI. Mordecai has 13 homers to go with his .373 average.

The Hilltoppers will pitch Steve Berrier (3-2, 4.16), Daren Kiziah (9-5, 4.37) and Jeff Ledogar (6-3, 4.74).

Western has the edge in home field. It also knows USA must pull off a sweep to win the division.

But momentum may have been lost at Evansville.

"It's really a little relief," Murrie said. "In baseball when you win that many in a row, you're playing against odds. Sooner or later, you'll get beat. Last night, we faced probably the top player in the June draft. We made some mental and physical mistakes."

"But nobody was down after the game. We'll just talk about some things in practice and go on."

Topper tidbits

Pete Davids and Mike Latham lead Western in game-winning RBI with five each.... Chris Turner still leads the team in homers with 14, but Gary Mueller is catching up with 12.... Mueller leads in RBI with 54 and hits with 69.... Only Randy Cook (1-4) has a losing record on Western's pitching staff.... Western's team ERA is 4.69, and that of its opponents is 7.15....

Continued on Page 3
Column 1, This Section

Western one win away from West Division crown

5-1-88
By ROBERT B. McCORMACK
Daily News Staff Writer

For Western's baseball team, the magic number is one.

The Hilltoppers rolled over the South Alabama Jaguars 13-7 Saturday at Denes Field to clinch at least a tie for the Sun Belt Conference West Division title. If Western can produce one more win in the next four outings, it will secure the title and home field advantage in the SCB Tournament.

"It was just another day," said Western coach Joel Murrie, whose squad now shows a 40-17 slate overall and a 12-2 in the SBC. "I try not to put importance on any single game. We need to play well in the next four games and keep the momentum going."

The Hilltoppers, who beat the Jaguars 17-9 in a Friday slugfest, will finish the three-game series today at 1 p.m. and host South Florida on May 6, 7, and 8th.

To get Saturday's win, Western had to overcome a Jaguar lead in the first inning.

South Alabama (34-17 and 8-6) went up 2-0 when Logan Collins singled to score DeWayne Jones from second base. Brian Neveau singled to score Luis Gonzales, who had walked and stole second base.

The Hilltoppers wasted no time in knotting the score when freshman

Chris Turner singled and Stan Cook reached first base on a Jaguar error. Cook crossed home plate following a Mike Latham single. Latham was later thrown out at second. Gary Mueller singled to score Cook from second base.

The Toppers took a 4-2 lead in the bottom of the third and never looked back when Cook was walked to first base. He was brought home following a home run shot over the left-field fence by Latham.

In the fourth, Turner swung another big bat and had the distance for a home run, but it went foul. He then doubled to score Mike Cash, who had reached base on a single. The Toppers led 5-2.

A Cook double advanced Turner to third and later scored following a bunt by Latham.

The Jaguars made it 6-3 in the top of the fifth when Jones hit a solo home run. In the sixth, South Alabama chipped away at the lead when Kent Williams doubled to score Neveau.

But the Hilltoppers added seven runs in the sixth inning to take a commanding advantage. It was started by Turner's homer over the center-field fence.

"I think Western is a hot team

right now," USA coach Steve Kittrell said. "They're swinging the bats really well."

"We have to bounce back for (today's) game. The key today was that our defense made too many mistakes, although we swung the bats well enough to win."

Darren Kizziah (10-6) won for Western, beating Rafael Perez (8-4).

Western 17, South Alabama 9

Mike Zimmerman couldn't stop Western. Mark Ettles couldn't, and Rusty Glover couldn't.

Only the end of the game stopped Western from scoring more runs Friday as the Hilltoppers pounded out 20 hits and answered every

USA scoring surge with one of their own.

"In baseball, you have to stop the other team when you score," Kittrell said. "They blew away every rally we had. It took a lot out of our team."

The big blow was a grand slam home run by Mike Latham in the second inning that took Western from a 4-2 deficit to a 6-2 lead. He hit it off of Ettles, USA's ace reliever. Latham was the first batter Ettles faced.

Western led the rest of the way.

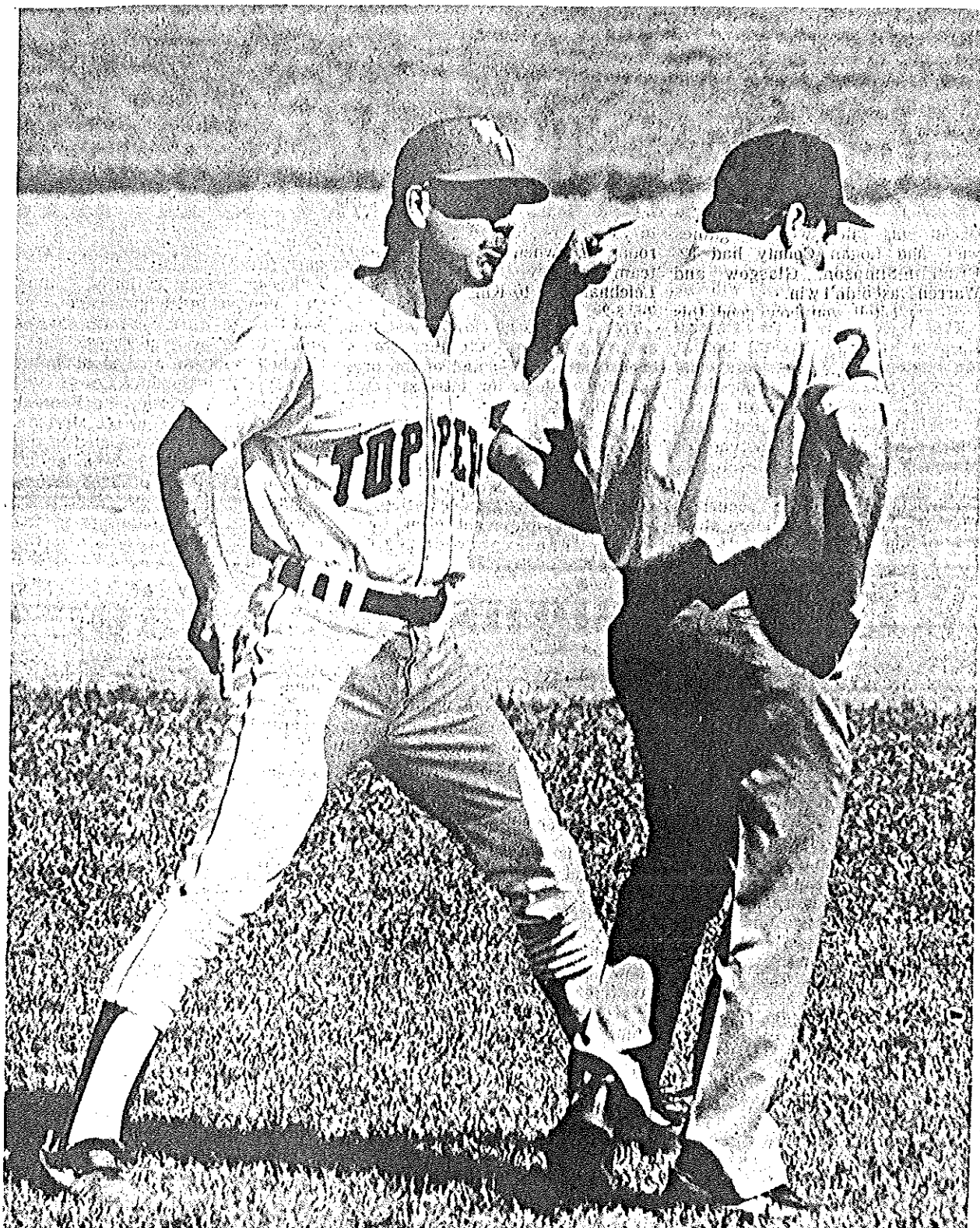
"We just went out and kept playing ball like we have been the last 11 games," Murrie said. "I feel good about the way we're playing, and the players do to. We're going out every day and playing with confidence."

Saturday's game
South Alabama 200 011 120-7 12 5
Western 202 207 00x-13 15 0
W-Kizziah (10-6). L-Perez (8-4).
Friday's game
South Alabama 140 100 201-9 10 2
Western 440 531 00x-17 20 1
W-Steve Bercler (4-2). L-Zimmerman (4-1).

Baseball C.J. 4-30-83
 At Bowling Green, Ky. 4-30-83
 South Alabama 140 100 201-9 10 2
 Western Kentucky 440 531 0x-17 20 1
 Mike Zimmerman, Mark Ettles (2), Rusty
 Glover (4), Scott Bray (7) and Steve Old-
 ham. Steve Bercier, Otis Lewis (7) and
 Mike Latham. W — Bercier (4-2), L —
 Zimmerman (4-1), 2B — Luis Gonzalez (S),
 Logan Cowens (S) 2, Pete Davids (W), Gary
 Galan (W), James Wombach (W), Gaary
 Mueller (W), Stan Cook (W), Chris Turner
 (W), 3B — Mike Cash (W), HR — Brandon
 Piemons (S), Mueller (W), Latham (W). Rec-
 ords — Western 39-17, 11-2. South Ala-
 bama — 34-10, 8-5.

Baseball C.J. 5-1-83
 At Bowling Green, Ky. 5-1-83
 South Alabama 200 011 120-7 12 6
 Western Ky. 202 297 00x-13 15 0
 Rafael Perez, Mark Ettles (6), John Buss
 (6), Scott Bray (6) and Steve Oldham.
 Daren Kizziah, Heath Haynes (6) and Mike
 Latham. W—Kizziah (10-6), L—Perez (8-4),
 S—Haynes (3), 2B—Stan Cook 2 (WKU),
 Kent Williams (SA), Dewayne Jones 2 (SA),
 3B—Don Halfacre (SA), HR—Latham
 (WKU), Chris Turner (WKU), Jones (SA).
 Records — WKU 40-17 (12-2 in Sun Belt),
 South Alabama 34-17 (8-6).

Baseball C.J. 5-2-83
 At Bowling Green, Ky. 5-2-83
 South Alabama 003 053 001-12 15 1
 Western Kentucky 102 000 070-10 13 3
 Phil Angelos, Scott Bray (8), Mike Zim-
 merman (8) and Steve Oldham. Jeff Ledo-
 gar, Randy Cook (5), Jeff Meier (5), Tony
 Compton (9), Otis Lewis (9) and Mike
 Latham. WP—Angelos (7-4), LP—Ledogar
 (6-4), 2B—Stan Cook (W), 3B—Luis Gon-
 zalez (SA), HR—Dewayne Jones (SA), Lo-
 gan Collins 2 (SA), Stan Cook (W), Gary
 Mueller (W), James Wombach (W), Juan
 Galan (W). Records—Western Kentucky
 40-18 (12-3 in Sun Belt), South Alabama
 35-17 (9-6 in Sun Belt).



(Staff Photo by LaMaw Weaver)

Making his point

JOEL MURRIE debates with an umpire early in Saturday's Western-South Alabama baseball game at Denes Field. Western clinched at least a tie for first place in the Sun Belt Conference West Division

with a 13-7 win. The Hilltoppers, who will go for a three-game series sweep of USA today at 1 p.m., beat the Jaguars 17-9 Friday.

D. N. 5-1-88

WKU rally falls short

5-2-88

By JOE MEDLEY
Daily News Sports Writer

The Denes Field crowd clapped in time, and pitcher Steve Bercler thrust his fist in the air to ignite Western's dugout.

It was the eighth inning, and Western's baseball team had rallied for seven runs to come within 11-10. It looked like a sure comeback in front 100 fans and sun bathers on an 81-degree afternoon.

USA 12 WESTERN 10

RECORDS: Western (40-18 overall and 12-3 in the Sun Belt).

VITAL STATS: South Alabama starter Phil Angelos sat Western down in order four straight innings. USA outhit Western 15-13.

KEY PLAYS: Zimmerman stopped a screaming Mike Latham ground ball up the middle that would've been a sure base hit and possibly a rally starter in the ninth inning. Western's James Wambach was retired between third base and home on a rundown in the second inning. Latham was thrown out at home with room to spare in the third inning.

South Alabama 003 053 001-12 15 1
Western 102 000 070-10 13 1
WP—Angelos (7-4). LP—Ledogar (7-4)

Western's Mike Cash stood on second base with the tying run, and local hero Chris Turner, who leads Western and the Sun Belt Conference in home runs with 14, was batting.

If Western pulled off the win against South Alabama, it would've clinched the Sun Belt West Division crown with a weekend sweep.

Turner struck out. Stan Cook, a .337 hitter, then grounded out to short.

End of inning, and thanks to USA relief pitcher Mike Zimmerman, end of discussion.

USA added a run in the top of the ninth, and Zimmerman sat Western down one, two three to save a 12-10 Jaguar win.

"He came in throwing gas," said Gary Mueller, who nailed a 3-run home run to start the eighth-inning rally off of Jaguar starter Phil Angelos, who picked up the win.

The gas stopped Western's combustion and left the Hilltoppers' season division-clinching number at 11-10.

If Western (40-18 overall and 12-3 in the SBC) wins one game of three against South Florida at home next weekend, it will win the division.

If South Alabama (35-17 and 9-6) loses one against Alabama Birmingham next weekend, Western wins and hosts the SBC Tournament.

But Sunday's win, which backed up 13-7 and 17-9 losses, was a moral victory for South Alabama.

"We know that the tournament will likely be here, and we know we can win here," Zimmerman said.

Western's loss was its first Sun Belt loss at home this season. South Alabama is the only Sun Belt team to beat Western, splitting the season series 3-3.

"This was a huge win for our team," USA coach Steve Kittrell said. "We went out today and played like we wanted it, did the things we had to do on defense and came away with it for once."

"Western has a good team, especially here. It means a lot to us."

Both coaches came away talking like they had won.

"We saw some positive things in defeat," Western coach Joel Murrie said. "We made some big plays and came back. We made some key mistakes at key times, but I'm not unhappy with what I saw."

Two base running mistakes hurt. James Wambach was tagged out in a run down between third and home in the second inning after Juan Galan grounded to third.

Mike Latham, who had 11 RBI in the series, was easily tagged out at home in the third inning when he tried to score from first on Wambach's double.

But Zimmerman made the mistakes count against Western.

Continued on Page 9
Column 5, This Section

Jaguars stop Toppers

Continued From Page 8

5-2-88
Zimmerman, knocked off the mound in the first inning of Friday's 17-9 Western win, was the most relieved after striking out two in one and two thirds innings.

He also knocked down a Mike Latham blast at the mound in the ninth inning. The hit was a sure base hit and a possible rally bullet.

"I felt like I owed the team something after Friday," said Zimmerman, a freshman who turned down several pro offers to go to college. "I wanted to preserve the win for Phil. He's my roommate."

Western hit the ball hard twice in the ninth inning, but the balls fell in Jaguar gloves.

"I felt like if we could've gotten a hit early in the ninth inning and maybe gotten something going, we would've won," Mueller said. "That stop he made at the mound was a big play."

USA scored three runs in the third inning to go up 3-1, but Cook's 2-run homer in the bottom of the inning tied the score.

Western's bats went silent against Angelos (7-4).

"Phil controlled the game until the eighth inning," Kittrell said.

"He had his stuff today, and he was setting up the hitters. It's awfully good for him because he had been struggling lately."

USA erupted for five runs in the fifth inning and three in the sixth to take the 11-3 lead and bench Western starter Jeff Ledogar (6-4).

The Jaguars ran off five straight singles and got a 2-run homer from Dewayne Jones in the fifth inning.

Western went down in order three straight innings before rallying in the eighth.

Wambach followed Mueller's homer with a solo shot. And Galan brought home Gerald Ingram with a 2-run blast two batters later.

Angelos retired after Cash singled in Chris Cage to make it 11-10 USA, but Zimmerman forced Western into a cease-fire.

"I really felt like I had my stuff today," Zimmerman said. "My fastball was working and my slider was moving."

Losing a Sun Belt game at home didn't rattle Murrie.

"If they lose two in a row in the tournament here, they won't get a chance to win one," Murrie said.

"We played a good game today except for a few mistakes. We just need to keep playing well."

Western's magic division number

3-5-58

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

The Hilltoppers have been scoring runs by the tons the last three weeks of the season. But all they need this weekend is enough to win one game.

Western's baseball team needs but one victory in its 3-game series with South Florida to clinch the West Division of the Sun Belt Conference, and the automatic hosting of the SBC Tournament that goes with it.

The series opens at Denes Field Friday at 3 p.m. The other two games are Saturday at 3 p.m. and Sunday at 1 p.m.

South Florida, at 24-26 and 4-9 in the league, hasn't been its overpowering self this year, but the Bulls are still fighting for a spot in the tournament. The top three teams from each division go to the tourney. Alabama Birmingham would have to sweep three games from South Alabama to stand a realistic chance of knocking South

USF VS. WESTERN

TEAMS: South Florida (24-26 overall, 4-9 in the SBC); Western (40-18 overall, 12-3 in the SBC).

SITE: Denes Field

TIMES: Friday and Saturday 3 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m.

RADIO: WDBS-FM

Florida out of the third tournament spot in the West Division.

Confidence overflows from the Hilltopper camp. Just ask Coach Joel Murrie, who is recruiting this week in Florida.

"We'll win the league, it's just a matter of whether we win or South Alabama loses," Murrie said Wednesday night. "The main thing we're concerned about is getting as many wins as possible."

That's because if Western doesn't win the division, or the conference tournament in two weeks, then it would have to look for an

automatic bid to the 48-team NCAA Tournament, culminating in the College World Series. And, despite having 40 wins, Murrie isn't sure the Hilltoppers can get in without winning the tournament championship.

"It will take 42 or 43 wins, counting the (SBC) tournament to get in," Murrie said. "They look for a reason not to take you, so the more wins, the better."

But Murrie isn't letting himself or the team look too far ahead, concentrating on sweeping South Florida instead of making NCAA reservations.

"That is sort of an afterthought," Murrie said of the NCAA Tournament. "We're just getting pumped up for South Florida. These guys want to get a ring."

Western has been more offensive to opposing pitching in recent weeks than Col. Oliver North's mouth. Two weeks ago, the Hilltoppers ran off 66 runs in three days. Against South Alabama last

weekend, Western banged out 40 runs on 48 hits.

The aluminum business could make a comeback with the way Western has been wearing out its bats.

Western players dominate SBC offensive statistics.

Four Hilltoppers are in the top 10 in SBC hits. First baseman Gary Mueller leads the league with 77. Six Hilltoppers are in the top 10 in SBC runs, freshman Chris Turner leading the way at No. 3 with 64. Four Hilltoppers are in the RBI top 10, Mueller (61) in second and catcher Mike Latham (60) in third. Turner with 15 home runs and Mueller with 14 homers are first and second, respectively, in the conference. They are joined on that top 10 list by Latham, Juan Galan and James Wambach.

Mueller (19), Stan Cook (17) and Latham (16) are fourth, fifth and sixth in doubles.

Pete Davis is tops in the conference in triples with six. That's

just one short of record set by Ranc Western is toy pitching, and has 14 along the way.

This is only the squad to win 40 of competition.

Western has 1.9 only to the 1985 2,099. In those at scored 473 runs, 492 that the 198 1980 squad came of going to the Series.

"Our consistent bottom has really opposition," Murrie Western's pitching Western pitcher beating, with a 5 show for it. But have been hotter ERA on the opposi Right-hander D led the Hilltopper the first Hilltop

division number is one

to the 48-team NCAA Series. And, despite this, Murrie isn't sure he can get in without tournament champion-

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just one short of tying the team record set by Randy Striek in 1985.

Western is toying with opposing pitching, and has won 12 of its last 14 along the way.

This is only the fourth Hilltopper squad to win 40 games in 70 years of competition.

Western has 1,929 at-bats, second only to the 1985 squad's total of 2,099. In those at-bats, Western has scored 473 runs, compared to the 492 that the 1980 team had. The 1980 squad came within one victory of going to the College World Series.

"Our consistency from top to bottom has really intimidated the opposition," Murrie said.

Western's pitching hasn't.

Western pitchers have taken a beating, with a 5.02 ERA bruise to show for it. But, Hilltopper bats have been hotter, nailing a 7.34 ERA on the opposition.

Right-hander Daren Kiziah has led the Hilltopper staff, going 10-6, the first Hilltopper to win 10

games, with a 4.73 ERA. His 16 decisions are also No. 1 in the team record book. Steve Bercier (4-2, 4.35) and Jeff Ledogar (6-4, 5.10) are the other SBC pitchers who will be starters this weekend.

While South Florida might have better talent than the Hilltoppers, it has played inconsistently for Coach Eddie Cardieri.

The Bulls have been characterized as a Jeckyll and Hyde outfit, ready to play one day, not ready the next.

"It's been more in hitting than anything else," Cardieri said. "We have some guys who are capable, but they haven't been doing it. But, they can also break out of a slump at any time."

Western set the tone for its hitting rampage with a 3-game sweep of South Florida — the first for any Western team on the road in SBC play — last month in Tampa.

South Florida second baseman Scott Miller leads the Bulls at .349, with four home runs and 32 RBI. Utility man Derek Lee is hitting .313 with four homers, 29 RBI and 22 stolen bases.

Kevin Dougherty (6-7, 4.56 ERA) will be one of the starters for South Florida. Cardieri will decide on his others by Friday.

Topper tidbits

Western is tied for first in SBC team batting at .316. But, the Hilltoppers are last in pitching with that 5.02 team ERA.... The Hilltoppers have 71 home runs, 408 RBI and 132 doubles, all conference highs.... The 132 doubles are a team record.... Western's 473 runs are second on the all-time list.... Mueller's 19 doubles ties him for second on Western's all-time list.... The 48 walks each drawn by Latham and Turner are all-time highs.... Latham has had the game-winning RBI in Western's last four games....

Tops clinch West Division title

5-5-83

By JOE MEDLEY

Daily News Sports Writer

Gary Mueller had the ball and about 15 feet between him, first base and Western's Sun Belt West Division championship he had waited four years for.

He started a trot, looked up at South Florida runner Derek Lee, and burst into a sprint to the bag for the final out in a 9-8 win Friday at Dunes Field.

It was the last out in a long wait for Mueller and Western. Mueller didn't want to wait one out longer.

"I looked up and saw him springing, and I just took off," Mueller said. "This feels great. I've waited four years for this championship, and now we have it."

"The fact that we got it against South Florida gave it some credibility. They have a good team, and they've been one of the best in the West Division for a long time. They could've come up here and beaten us three games."

The out and win brought on a parade of Hilltoppers from the Western dugout and gave Western the right to host the Sun Belt Tour-

namment next weekend. A seventh-inning solo home run by Mike Cash proved to be the difference.

The Hilltoppers backed up the division-clinching win with an 8-7 victory Saturday.

Now Western coach Joel Murrie has his first West Division title in his eighth season on the Hill. But he hasn't stopped looking ahead.

"It's a great win for our team, our players and the administration who has supported us," Murrie said. "It's something that you shoot for. But the way I look at our season now is that we have (five) Sun Belt games left we still have to win — (one) against South Florida and four in the tournament."

Western (42-18) will play South Florida today at 1 p.m. The Hilltoppers will likely play North Carolina Charlotte in the first round of the Sun Belt tourney May 18-20.

In getting there, Western showed the power and pitching that helped it to a 14-3 West Division record.

The Hilltoppers got homers from James Wambach, Chris Gage and Cash.

Cash's shot sailed high over the left-center-field wall and gave Western a 9-7 lead.

"I was just trying to get a good bat on it," said Cash, a shortstop who leaped high and nabbed a hard drive off the bat of USF's Duane O'Hara in the first half of the seventh inning. "It got up there and just kept going."

The homer assured Jeff Meier of a relief win. Meier (5-0) pitched three and one third innings, allowing five hits and one earned run in the ninth inning on an RBI single by Duane Walker.

"I just tried to keep the ball on the outside corner of the plate because that's where the strikes were today," Meier said. "I was throwing strikes and keeping the ball away from the hitters."

Otis Lewis came on after Walker's hit and allowed a single before sitting down the final two USF batters. Lewis got the save.

"Jeff came in and did a good job, and so did Otis," Murrie said. "Our pitchers have had a week layoff because of exams and had some problems early, but we got

some key pitching performances at key times.

"We have some good pitchers on this team, and sometimes they get overshadowed because we have such a good offensive team."

Western built as much as a 7-2 lead in the fifth inning, but South Florida (24-28 and 4-11) rallied for five runs in the sixth. The big blow was a 2-RBI single by Lee.

"I was proud of the way we played," South Florida coach Eddie Cardieri said. "We hit the ball really well. Just a few little mistakes hurt us."

Three of those mistakes came at first base, where USF runners were picked off.

"You never know if they would've scored, but we would've been batting longer," Cardieri said. "Mistakes like that really show up in a 1-run game."

Western's Stan Cook came home on a Wambach fly ball in the bottom of the sixth to give Western the lead for good and set up Cash's homer.

Cage and Cash, batting eighth and ninth, respectively, accounted for three hits. Cage was 2 for 3.

"Getting production from the bottom of the order is all part of being a good team," Murrie said.

"Mike and Chris had great games and made some big plays and hits for us."

And getting the big plays and hits is why Western is tops in the West Division this year.

Friday's game
South Florida 000 205 001-8 14 1
Western 013 211 10x-9 9 1
W-Meier (5-0), L-White (4-2)

C.J. Baseball 5-7-83
At Bowling Green
South Florida .. 000 205 001-8 14 2
Western Kentucky 013 211 10x-9 10 1
Kevin Dougherty, Dave White (4), Todd Harvey (5) and Gus Volmer, Steve Berger, Heath Haynes (6), Jeff Meier (6), Randy Cook (5), Gus Lewis (5) and Mike Latham, W-Meier (5-0), L-White (4-2), 2B-O'Hara 2 (SF), Duane Walker (SF), Duane Cash (W), HR-Gus Volmer (SF), Mike Cash (W), Chris Gage (W), James Wambach (W), Records-W, James Wambach (W), Records-W, Western 40-18, South Florida 24-28.

May 17-81
South Florida .. 000 340 000-7 14 2
Western Kentucky 000 300 032-8 10 0
Sergio Gausch, Mike Peters (4), Todd Harvey (5) and Troy Rusk, Daren Kitzian, Mike Latham, W-Cook (2-4), L-Peters (4-5), 2B-Pete Tactos (SF), Kenny Conrod (SF), 3B-Deweyne Walker (SF), Gen-Ed Ingram (W), Records-W, Western 41-18, South Florida 24-28.

Funds for Western

5-10-88

It's shameful that Western's baseball team has to wait for enough money to be raised to rent lights so it can host the Sun Belt Conference Tournament next week.

After all, the Hilltoppers earned the chance to host the tournament on the field, by playing powerful baseball over the last month and a half of the season.

Western rang up a 41-19 record overall, 14-4 in the West Division, tying it for the second-best record since the league went to a divisional format several years ago.

The Hilltoppers won 17 of their last 22 games. They pounded opposing pitching with a prowess not seen since the 1985 team belted out 114 home runs.

And, yet, they still have to wait



Mark C. Mathis

Daily News
Sports Editor
Commentary

for the \$20,000 rental fee to be raised to pay for portable lights to be installed by Musco Lighting Company, the firm that installed the lights at Smith Stadium last fall.

If enough corporate sponsors

aren't found, and if the money isn't raised, the tournament will be played at South Alabama, where there is a lighted, modern facility.

That stinks.

And it's not fair.

It's not fair to the players who worked hard to make this one of the most successful years ever in Western baseball — a feat made even more amazing when considering that nothing, underline nothing, special was expected of them.

It's especially not fair to Coach Joel Murrie, who has toiled for respectability in a league that is every bit as strong in baseball as the Southeastern Conference.

Murrie-coached teams have won five regular-season division championships in his nine years at

baseball lights a must

Western.

Yet, he still has to fight endless battles with the administration to get the bare necessities to make Denes Field at least a fair place to play.

The Hilltopper Athletic Foundation raised the money to put a modern scoreboard at the field. But all the other changes, such as the outfield wall, were put in by Murrie and the players. The wood was donated.

Many of the other SBC schools have state-of-the-art facilities, with price tags approaching or surpassing the \$1 million mark.

Opposing players laugh when they come to Denes Field, which was good enough in the OVC days, but not even close to adequate now.

We realize Western is in a money crunch, has been for more than a decade. But Western baseball shouldn't be made to suffer. This lighting question should be moot because the facilities — lights, a small stadium-type facility, a quality field — should've been upgraded when Western entered the SBC.

But that's an issue for another soapbox.

Now, my dear friends, it is time to help Murrie and his players.

The HAF will be trying over the next few days to solicit funds to pay for the light rental.

Nearly \$7,000 from the baseball travel budget will be put toward getting the lights, according to Athletics Director Jimmy Feix.

Feix said that with gate receipts

from the tournament and corporate sponsors, the other \$13,000 or so should be available.

People who have shown a previous interest in baseball are being contacted by Gary West and DeLane Simpson of the HAF. Feix said that if these folks show enough interest, it might lead to more permanent upgrading of the facilities.

We would be very pleased to see that interest — and the donations to the team.

The conference has three requisites for hosting the SBC Tournament:

—A seating capacity of 750.

—A tarpaulin to cover the field in case of rain.

—Lights or an alternate field.

Two out of three — which Western has — usually isn't bad.

In this case, it's not nearly good enough.

Fans will be key this week

D. IV. 5-15-88

Batters taking their swings in the cage. Pitchers throwing on the mound. Fielders taking grounders, working on double plays, practicing rundowns.

Western's baseball team was busy last week getting ready to host its first Sun Belt Conference Tournament this week at Denes Field.



**Mark C.
Mathis**

**Daily News
Sports Editor
Commentary**

But, the Hilltoppers weren't the only ones working last week at the field.

Painters spent the week putting fresh coats of green and red paint on just about everything that didn't move. Carpenters worked to construct a makeshift press box. Electricians installed wire for television, radio and telephones. Maintenance men replaced lights on the scoreboard and got a full array of computer graphics in place for those between-inning lulls.

It's been face-lift time for Western's baseball facility.

Joel Murrie, the Hilltopper coach, must feel like it's Christmas. Usually, the crews take most of the summer to get the field ready for use the next year. What they usually spend three months doing has been accelerated to about two weeks because of the SBC Tournament, which starts Wednesday.

Lights, a major issue because Western didn't have any, caused a

quick fund-raising mission to get them from Musco Lighting Company. The sports lighting company is renting lights to Western for the tournament with a price around \$20,000.

Murrie said the company should be in town today to start putting up the poles. Murrie wants the lights in at least by tonight so his team will get a chance to practice under them once before making its first nighttime appearance Wednesday at 7:30 against North Carolina Charlotte.

Lighting is the reason Western doesn't have to travel to South Alabama, the second-place team in the SBC West Division, for the tournament.

But, ultimately, lights will mean much more to the Hilltopper program before this week is out.

If Western is to ever get permanent lighting for Denes Field, then it will be up to the community, as it usually is, to prove that it wants Western to play night baseball.

Western did its part by winning the West Division regular-season championship, thus earning the chance to host the tournament; the university administration did its part by soliciting the funds to get the lights; the individuals who donated the money have done their part for this project. Now, it is up to the fans to do their part.

And that is... come to the ballpark Wednesday night.

There's talk of getting as many as 1,500 people out for Western's opening game in the tournament.

For baseball in Bowling Green, that would be a huge number.

And, as Murrie has pointed out, if

attendance isn't high for a Division I conference tournament — at night — then it never will be.

A big, vocal audience for the first night, and every game Western plays in the tournament, could help convince the school's administration that it would be a good investment to put permanent lights up at Denes.

The main push behind getting lights up at Smith Stadium last fall was survival of the football program.

The same can be said for Murrie's program. Baseball won't die at Western without lights, but it will never grow larger than it is now. It is highly competitive in the SBC, which is as good as baseball conference as there is in the South. But it will never move to a higher level without permanent lighting.

Lights at Denes Field, as with Smith Stadium, would help not just Western, but baseball, and football, in this area. Just look at the Heritage Bowl, which was able to come into being only because Smith is now lighted.

The Heritage Bowl is a potential dynamite showcase for high school football.

Just think of how many youth league tournaments could be played at Denes if lights were there. American Legion and Connie Mack tournaments could be played there all summer.

Also, lights could be the cornerstone for a baseball complex, one which Murrie has had preliminary plans drawn up for for some time. The complex wouldn't take up any more space than Denes does now, and it would include indoor restrooms, concession areas and dressing rooms for the teams. It would also only cost between \$125,000-\$150,000.

There are high school facilities in Bowling Green that have indoor plumbing. Why can't Denes?

If the fans come out this week, it could be the start of collegiate baseball under the lights in this area.



(Staff Photo by Kevin Eans)

Wired

JAMES GREENWOOD, a physical plant worker at Western, puts together on wiring for the public address system at Denes Field recently. The field is

being spruced up for this week's Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

D. N. 5-15-88

Hitters don't go for Denes fences

5-16-88
By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

As they've maintained all season, Western's hitters never developed a secret formula for their enormous success at the plate while etching out a 41-19 record.

"Usually a team will have two or three big hitters," said Mike Latham, Western's catcher and its leading hitter with a .352 average. "But everybody has been real consistent for us."

Gary Mueller, the Hilltoppers' second-best hitter at .348, concurs.

"We have some great hitters," Mueller said recently while waiting for his turn at the batting cage. "No one is a superstar. Everybody is saying 'I can do as much as anybody.'"

Remember how the Little League coach told everybody to be a hitter. Western takes that advice to the plate every day.

It has paid off with a Sun Belt Conference West Division championship for the Hilltoppers, who host the SBC Tournament this week at Denes Field.

Western leads the conference in hitting at .315, one point better than defending conference tournament champion South Alabama. Hilltoppers dominate the individual conference hitting statistics.

Latham and Mueller are in the top 10 of five SBC hitting categories. Mueller is one out of first in the hitting department with 80. The senior first baseman is second in RBI with 65. He is also second in the league in home runs to

WKU baseball

freshman teammate Chris Turner with 14.

But Latham and Mueller are partly right, they aren't the only ones with their names in the fine print.

Turner, Stan Cook and James Wambach also get their swings in.

Cook, a center fielder for Coach Joel Murrie, is tied with Latham in runs (54) and hits (68). Turner is third in the conference in runs scored with 68. Wambach, the designated hitter, is on the home run and RBI lists.

"There are no weak spots in our lineup," Mueller said. "We even have good hitters in the eight and nine spots."

Eight of nine Western starters are hitting .300 or better. The ninth player, Turner, is hitting .296. Consistency, not power, has been the key at the plate for the Hilltoppers.

"When we're trying to jack home runs, we don't win," said Mueller, a senior from Warren, N.J. "We have to get a lot of baserunners. When we do, we've proven we can knock them in with singles and doubles. We've had a lot of clutch hits throughout the year."

Latham has gotten a few of those himself, leading the team in game-winning RBI with eight.

The senior from Spring City,

Tenn., underwent ankle surgery back in October, spent three months on crutches and had a slow start.

The injury was part of that, and Latham's spot in the batting order kept changing.

"When the conference season started I was switching between three, four and five," Latham said. "When you're fourth you see a lot

of sliders. When you're third you see a lot of fastballs. I love that."

Mueller also suffered through a slow start. But as Latham said, Mueller has been "hitting the cover off the ball" the last month and a half.

"I would've liked to have put better numbers up," Mueller said. "I had the slow start, but once I broke out of it, I kind of relaxed."

And his teammates have, well, just been hitters.

Topppers not sizing up championship rings too quickly

5-17-88

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

Western's players weren't exactly measuring for rings last year before they played South Alabama in the championship game of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament, but they were talking about it.

The Hilltoppers hovered around .500 all last season before coming on strong down the stretch, knocking off favored host Old Dominion in the first round of the tourney, then South Alabama.

So, they thought they had it made, according to Juan Galan.

"We thought all we had to do was show up," Galan said recently.

When Western did show up for the final, it was beaten 16-11.

The Hilltoppers were favored in 1985, when Galan and some of his other teammates were freshmen. They lost in the opening round of that four-team tournament, and ultimately were beaten 11-10 by host Old Dominion in the finals.

When the SBC Tournament opens Wednesday at Denes Field for the first time, Western will be favored again, but it won't be overconfident (previews of the other tourney games can be found on 3-B).

"We have enough of a blend of guys who have been in the tournament before. They know what it's like," Western coach Joel Murrie said. "The underdog has beaten the favorite before. The other teams will be pumped up to come in here and play. We want to be confident, but not overconfident."

"We have enough of a blend of guys who have been in the tournament before. They know what it's like," Western coach Joel Murrie said. "The underdog has beaten the favorite before. The other teams will be pumped up to come in here and play. We want to be confident, but not overconfident."

And that's the attitude the

UNCC at Western

TEAMS: North Carolina Charlotte (28-25, 7-10 in SBC East Division) vs. Western (41-19, 14-4 in SBC West Division)

SITE: Denes Field

TIME: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday

RADIO: WBGH-AM

Hilltoppers will take into their first-round tilt with North Carolina Charlotte at 7:30 for the first-ever night game at Denes Field.

Western is getting ready for UNCC the same way it has for every other opponent during this 41-19 year that saw it win the West Division with a 14-4 record.

The Hilltoppers aren't getting all pumped up about the four-day affair, they've just been working on fundamentals — covering bases during rundowns, making sure the right people are covering on double plays.

"We don't put a lot of hype on the tournament," Murrie said. "You can build it up to the point where you start trying to do things differently."

Western doesn't want to do that because it feels it has the talent to take out UNCC, a 28-25 squad that finished third in the East Division with a 7-10 mark. The top three teams from each division advanced to the double-elimination tournament.

Murrie is prepared, though, for a low-scoring contest, as opening tournament games usually are.

"We're more suited for a high-scoring game," Murrie said. "But I will play it like it's going to be a

Continued on Page 3
Column 1, This Section

Toppers not too quick

D.V. 5-17-88

Continued From Page 1-B
low-scoring game."

Coach Gary Robinson has had an inconsistent squad throughout the season.

"I have no idea which club will show up," the UNCC coach said recently. "We're inexperienced as far as Sun Belt competition goes. We've got to learn the league, but we're coming in optimistic."

Catcher Jeff Shore is part of the reason for that optimism. The SBC Player of the Week in the final week of the season, the catcher-

infielder is hitting .332 with five home runs and 47 RBI.

Two junior outfielders — Gerald Patton and Eric Williams — have also carried the 49ers. Patton is hitting .316 with a homer and 30 RBI. Williams is at .309 with two home runs and 36 RBI.

Junior left-hander Glenn Harris is the top UNCC pitcher at 5-4 with a 3.28 ERA. He has a school-record four shutouts this year.

Robinson said he wasn't sure who would open, but it would be either

Harris or right-hander Jeff Holshouser (4-6, 4.49 ERA).

"Our pitching at times has been very good, and sometimes it has been very bad," Robinson said. "It's the old thing about making chicken salad out of chicken feathers. We put constant pressure on our pitching and our defense."

Western's hitting this year has been known to do that, too.

Topper tidbits

Murrie is expected to go with right-hander Steve Bercier (4-2, 4.62

to size up title rings

ERA) in the opener.... The Hilltoppers will be regaining the services of right fielder Gerald Ingram and third baseman Randy Kotchman for the tournament. Ingram, a .287 hitter with lots of speed, has been out of the lineup with a pulled quadricep. Kotchman has been a solid utility man for Murrie, and also had a pulled quad. Both will add depth for the Hilltoppers, Murrie said.... Right fielder Pete Davids has been playing with an injured leg for several weeks.... Western continues its assault on the

record books. Its 2,028 at-bats are closing in on the 1985 team's record of 2,099.... Western's 494 runs scored is a record, beating out the 492 the 1980 squad scored.... Western's 135 doubles is a school record... Gary Mueller needs just one more double to tie the school record set by Mike Murray in 1980.... Stan Cook has 17 doubles. Mike Latham has 16 doubles.... Pitcher Daren Kizziah holds the school record for victories (10) and decisions (16) in a single season.... Juan Galan holds the school record

for most games played in a career with 227. The old record was 199 by Murray from 1977-80.... Musco Lighting Company of Iowa, the same company that installed the lights at Smith Stadium, is renting Western the lights for the SBC Tournament....

Murrie has bullpen by committee

5-18-88
By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

Committees are groups of people who sit around discussing things, usually over coffee and donuts.

It's hard to find many committees that do much of anything but talk and recommend, especially in Congress.

Western has lots of committees that talk and recommend. Most of them don't do much else, either.

But there's one committee on the Hill that has been involved in plenty of action this year.

Joel Murrie has had the busiest committee at Western this year, his bullpen by committee.

The Western coach started the season with a couple of his top pitchers from last year in the academic doghouse.

He needed help. Fast.

Murrie only had one sure Sun Belt Conference starter in mind — Daren Kiziah. He would use the preconference season to try and develop a couple more.

Out of 10 possibilities, two emerged as weekend warriors, Steve Berrier and Jeff Ledogar, out of Bowling Green.

WKU baseball

But while Murrie was answering the questions about his conference starters, one thing became clear, he had plenty of arms to use, and he was going to use them.

"They knew what their role would be," Murrie said recently. "And they knew they would all have a shot at getting the ball. We've used every one equally. They've all got between 19 and 24 appearances."

Otis Lewis, Jeff Meier, Tony Compton and Randy Cook, all have at least 19 appearances out of Western's bullpen, arguably the best in the Sun Belt Conference as play began today in the conference tournament at Dens Field. Only Heath Haynes has fewer than 19 appearances, and his number stands at 16.

The casual observer won't find many of Western's pitchers bounding to the top of the Sun Belt Conference statistics. The Hilltoppers have the worst team ERA (5.10) in the league. But nobody can say all these guys, rolled into one, haven't

gotten the job done. Just look at Western's 41-19 record.

Now, the main reason Western's pitching has been able to give up five runs a game is because it's been scoring runs by the dozen.

The sum of all the parts really does make up the whole when it comes to Hilltopper pitching.

Meier has the best record at 5-0. Haynes has the best ERA at 2.59. Compton's ERA has ballooned to 6.00, but he is 3-0. Cook is the only man on the staff with a losing record at 2-4.

They all have different strengths. So much so that their weaknesses can be hidden by bringing another guy in.

They're all versatile enough to use in different situations, although each has some kind of specialty. All three can pitch each day of the SBC Tournament. Lewis, Cook and Meier can pitch on consecutive days.

Meier, a senior right-hander from Dekalb, Ill., likes it better the second day, anyway.

"It's weird, but I throw harder and better the next day after I come in," Meier said. "I started at the beginning of the year, and I

didn't like it. I like throwing one or two innings a day. About the most I can go is four or five innings."

Meier said he likes short relief better, and some days that's what he does. Other days Meier might pitch middle relief.

"They're all so versatile, it doesn't matter who's out there," Murrie said. "If we need a strike-out, we go to Otis, because he throws strikes. Meier throws the fastball and slider well. Compton has a good sinker and Cook throws the breaking ball."

And, if that isn't enough, Murrie can look to Chris Turner, the SBC's top home run hitter with 15, but also an ace pitcher for Warren Central.

Murrie says that if regular third baseman Randy Kotchman hadn't been hurt this season, forcing Turner to play there, the freshman might have seen some pitching action earlier this year.

"Some other people would be begging to have an arm like Turner's on their staff," Murrie said.

And, some other teams would be begging to have a bullpen like Murrie's.

Three from WKU make All-Sun Belt

Jacksonville's Ernie Carr, one of the top hitters in collegiate baseball, has been named the Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year by a vote of the league's eight coaches.

Carr, a senior third baseman, leads the conference in hitting with a .447 average. He set a conference record with 29 doubles and has 72 RBI.

Jacksonville reliever Brian Evans earned Rookie of the Year honors. The junior college transfer leads the nation in ERA with 0.72. He is 7-1 with five saves this year.

Tony Guzzo, who coached Virginia Commonwealth to its best season ever with a 41-14-1 record, was named Coach of the Year in a poll of his fellow coaches.

Jacksonville, Virginia Commonwealth and Western each placed three players on the All-Conference team.

Outfielder Bobby Andrews joined teammates Carr and Evans on the first team from Jacksonville.

Western placed catcher Mike Latham, outfielder Stan Cook and

D N 5-18-88
SBC baseball

designated hitter Gary Mueller on the team. Latham and Mueller are the top hitters for Western.

VCU put shortstop Tim Baker, outfielder John Callis and starting pitcher Jerry Dipoto on the squad.

South Alabama had the All-Conference first and second basemen. Luis Gonzalez is on first for USA and Dewayne Jones is at second.

Rounding out the first team are designated hitter Dan Swatek of Alabama Birmingham and Old Dominion pitcher Jim Hvizda.

Western had three players make the second team.

Chris Turner, a freshman out of Warren Central, led the SBC in home runs with 15 this season.

Outfielder Pete Davids and pitcher Daren Kiziah also made the All-SBC second team.

Kiziah became the first Hilltopper ever to win 10 games in a season this year.

Western hopes to club way to league title

By BRUCE W. BRANCH
Staff Writer

COLLEGE BASEBALL

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — On the eve of the Sun Belt Conference baseball tournament, Western Kentucky coach Joel Murrie didn't appear worried about the pressure of winning, the generosity of his pitching staff or the caliber of the opposition.

When you have the league's top-hitting club playing in a park tailor-made for sluggers, you can afford to rest easy.

Western will open against North Carolina Charlotte tonight at 8:30 EDT in final first-round game in the six-team, double-elimination affair.

"I really don't know anything about Charlotte," Murrie said. "We beat them 9-4 during the regular season last year, but I don't know who they have back from that team. I'm not the kind of coach that gets into scouting reports.

"We're going to play our game. Our attitude in practice has been the same as it has been for 60 games. You can blow a tournament game out of proportion. We're just concerned with playing good, solid baseball.

"I'm not concerned about our pitching (Western's staff has a 5.10 earned run average, worst in the

Sun Belt)," Murrie added. "We've averaged 8.5 runs and we've given up five. That's a winning margin of three. We seem to score a lot of runs and, when we are scoring 18 or 20 runs, our pitchers haven't been worried about throwing sliders on the black. We want to make people hit the ball.

"We don't try to be cute. We go right at the hitters, and we swing the bat."

That has been a winning combination for Western, which became the host for the league tourney by capturing the West Division with a 14-4 record. Charlotte, 28-25-1 overall and 7-10-1 in Sun Belt play, edged Old Dominion for the third and final playoff spot in the East.

The Toppers, who were 25-7 at home and 41-19 overall during the regular season, are a strong favorite to take the Sun Belt title and the league's automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament. Western has not been to the NCAA since 1980.

Jacksonville (36-22, 11-6) and South Alabama (40-20, 11-7) will meet in the opening game of the

Sun Belt tourney at 1:30 p.m. South Florida (26-31, 5-11) will face East champion Virginia Commonwealth (41-14-1, 11-5) at 4:30 p.m.

There will be three games tomorrow and Friday. The finalists will meet Saturday at 1 p.m., with a second game at 4 p.m. if necessary.

Should Western win tonight, it will meet the Jacksonville-South Alabama victor tomorrow at 8:30 p.m. If the Toppers lose, they will oppose the South Florida-Virginia Commonwealth winner at 5 p.m.

Murrie expects the tournament to be filled with slugfests. Although Denes Field measures 330 feet down the lines, 370 in the power alleys and 400 in dead center, it is known as a sluggers' park.

"If you put the ball in the air, it can go a long way," Murrie said. "If a team wants to win, they are going to have to score a lot of runs.

Western leads the Sun Belt in batting (.315), hits (638), runs (494), home runs (74) and RBIs (428). It also has a league-record 135 doubles.

Western catcher Mike Latham (.353) and first baseman Gary Mueller (.348) finished eighth and ninth in Sun Belt hitting. Freshman Mark Turner of Bowling Green topped the league with 15 homers, and Mueller was next with 14.

SUN BELT CONFERENCE
At Bowling Green, Ky. 5-18-88

Jacksonville	...	020 020 340	— 11 12 0
South Florida	...	100 000 000	— 1 6 1

Joel Shapiro, Brian Evans (9) and Tony McGee, Jim Jimaki, Dave White (5), Pat Harned (6), Todd Harvey (7), Scott Carter (8) and Chris Ball, Troy Rusk (9). WP — Shapiro (7-4), LP — Jimaki (1-4), 2B — McGee (J), Eric Whitford (J), Scott Miller (SF), 3B — Sonny Christopher (J), HR — Jose Rodriguez (J), McGee (J). Records — Jacksonville 37-23, South Florida 26-33.

Va. Common.	...	501 200 001	— 9 12 1
UNC Charlotte	...	000 000 000	— 0 3 2

Mark Dunford and Adam Knicely, Chris Haney, Jeff Holshouser (1), Jeff Johnson (7) and Jeff Shore, WP — Dunford (9-0), LP — Henry (6-7), 2B — Shore (UNCC). Records — Virginia Commonwealth 43-14-1, UNC Charlotte 28-27-1.

Today — Jacksonville vs. loser of South Alabama-Western Kentucky, 1:30 p.m.; Virginia Commonwealth vs. South Alabama-Western Kentucky winner, 5 p.m.; Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 loser, 8:30 p.m.

(Wednesday)

UNC Charlotte	...	000 011 000	— 2 6 5
Western Ky.	...	001 133 02x	— 10 13 2

Glen Harris, Steve Southard (7) and Jeff Shore, Steve Barcler, Randy Cook (8), Otis Lewis (9) and Mike Latham, W — Barcler (5-2), L — Harris (5-5), 2B — Scott Muscat (NC), Chris Turner (WK), James Wambach (WK).

SUN BELT CONFERENCE
At Bowling Green
(First round)

Jacksonville ... 000 001 010 — 2 6 1
South Alabama 102 305 00x — 11 10 0
Kenny Kulina, Z. B. Hamilton (4), Matt Brady (8) and Tony McGee, Greg Stanley (8), Mark Ettles and Brian Neveau, W — Ettles (8-5), L — Kulina (3-5), 2B — Ernie Carr (J), Jesus Rivera (J), Logan Collins (SA), DeWayne Jones (SA), 3B — Steve Oldham (SA), HR — Mike Mordecai (SA), Luis Gonzalez (SA)(2). Records — Jacksonville 36-23, South Alabama 41-20.

South Florida ... 031 200 220 — 10 10 6
Va. Commonwealth ... 000 102 611 — 11 12 4

Kevin Dougherty, Mike Peters (7) and Troy Rusk, Jerry Dipoto, Tony Helmick (5), Danny Flanagan (7), Jeff Zona (8) and Adam Knicely, W — Zona (13-2), L — Peters (5-8), 2B — Andy Brandon (SF), Rick Niques (SF), Tim Barker 2 (VC), Scott Banton (VC), HR — Duane Walker (SF), Kenny Conrad (SF), Knicely (VC). Records — South Florida 25-32, Virginia Commonwealth 42-14-1.

SUN BELT ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM
First team: 1B — Luis Gonzalez (South Alabama), 2B — DeWayne Jones (S. Alabama), 3B — Tim Barker (Virginia Commonwealth), 3B — Ernie Carr (Jacksonville), C — Mike Latham (Western Kentucky), OF — Stan Cook (WKU), John Callis (VCU), Bobbie Andrews (Jacksonville), DH — Gary Mueller (WKU), Dan Swatek (Alabama-Birmingham), Pitchers — Jerry Dipoto (VCU), Brian Evans (Jacksonville), Jim Hvizda (Old Dominion).

Second team: 3B — Chris Turner (WKU), OF — Pete Davids (WKU).

Player of the year: Ernie Carr (Jacksonville).

C. J. 5-19-88

Western lights up scoreboard 10-2

5-19-88

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

It was vintage Western baseball — a 1988 Hilltopper Red — under the lights for the first time Wednesday at Denes Field.

Ding. Western scores one in the third.

Ding. Western scores another in the fourth.

Ding. Western scores three in the fifth.

Ding. Western scores three in the sixth.

Ding. Western scores two in the eighth.

North Carolina Charlotte was registering tilt as it lost 10-2 in the opening round of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

"We let them score some early that they shouldn't have," UNCC coach Gary Robinson said. "They got some momentum and proceeded to whip our fannies good."

And the Hilltoppers did it like Woody Woodpecker. They just kept peck, peck, pecking away.

"That's usually the way we play," said James Wambach, whose double in the eighth inning picked up Mike Latham and Gary Mueller and closed the scoring as the Hilltoppers went to 42-19.

The outcome delighted a crowd estimated at 1,300, the largest first-round gathering ever for a SBC Tournament, according to SBC public relations director John

Western 10 UNCC 2

VITAL STATS: UNCC committed five errors and gave up five unearned runs in the game. Western, after a slow start, pounded out 13 hits. Mike Cash and James Wambach each had two RBI.

KEY PLAYS: A wild pitch and error allowed Chris Gage and Cash to score in the fifth inning, breaking open a 2-1 game. Western catcher Mike Latham picked two UNCC runners off first base in the early innings, stopping potential rallies each time.

NEXT GAME: Western was scheduled to play South Alabama in a second-round game tonight at 7:30 at Denes Field. UNCC faced Virginia Commonwealth today at 4:30 p.m.

UNCC 000 011 000-2 6 5
Western 001 133 02x-10 13 2
W-Bercler (5-2, L)-Harris (5-5).

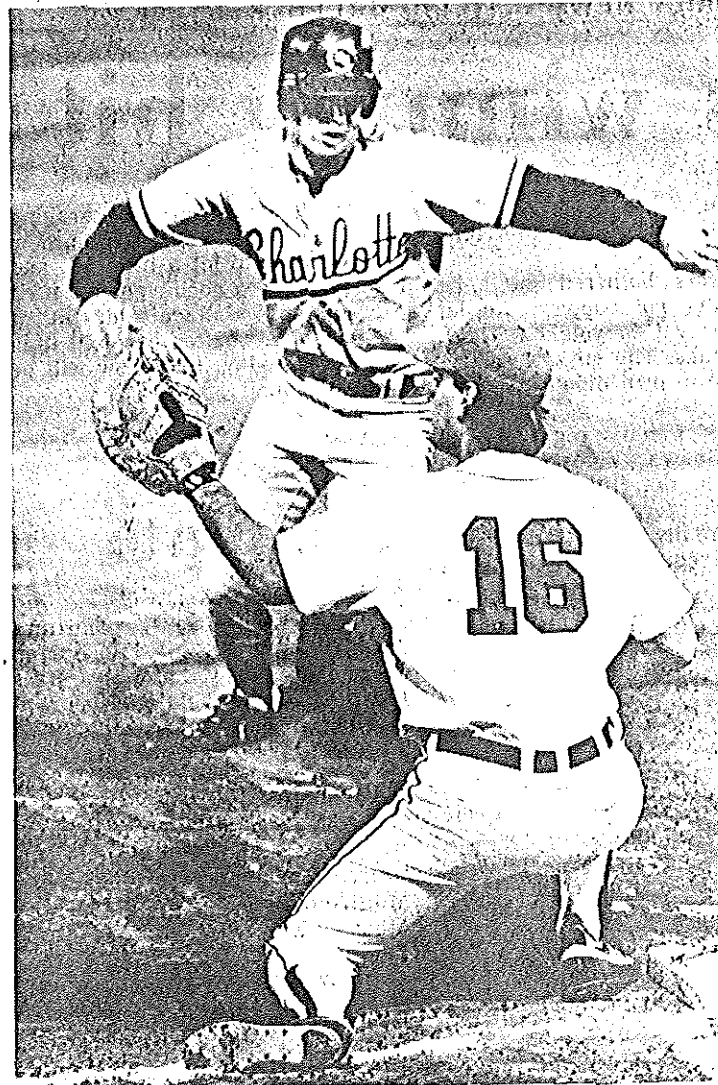
Iamarino, who looked on in amazement as fans filled the bleachers and lined up most of the way down the third-base line fence.

Coach Joel Murrie should get further evidence that Bowling Green is ready for night collegiate baseball tonight when the Hilltoppers take on their arch rival, South Alabama, in the second round of the tournament at 7:30.

A Mike Cash double to the center-field wall accounted for two of the three runs in the sixth inning. Chris Turner picked up Cash with another double.

Up to that point, though, Western's five runs were unearned.

Continued on Page 2
Column 1, This Section



Getting back

GARY MUELLER (16) gets set to catch a pick-off throw at first during Western's 10-2 Sun Belt Conference Tournament win over North Carolina Charlotte Wednesday night at Denes Field.

Knically's hit gives VCU win

5-19-88

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

Virginia Commonwealth did something it has only done three other times this year — allow a batter to swing with a 3-0 count — and it paid off with a grand slam homer by Adam Knically, pacing a furious Rams' comeback and propelling them to an 11-10 win over South Florida in the first round of the Sun Belt Conference Baseball Tournament.

Knically had been hitless in his previous three times up Wednesday afternoon at Denes Field, and with VCU down 8-3, it needed somebody to do something.

SBC Tournament

South Alabama 11
Jacksonville 2

VCU 11
South Florida 10

more often in the tight situations.

"He's one of the few guys who has the green light in a 3-0 situation," Guzzo said of Knically. "A lot of times this year he would get walked in that position. But he's

"I was more upset than he was," Klittrell said Wednesday afternoon. "Mike is one of the best shortstops in the country. I want him to show the rest of the league how good he is."

Mordecai, a freshman All-America pick last year, started showing it early, hitting a lead-off home run against Jacksonville in the opening round of the tournament.

And while Mordecai let his glove do the talking the rest of the game with several sparkling defensive plays, USA first baseman Luis Gonzalez picked up the hitting, stroking two home runs and collecting five RBI as the Jaguars

Mark Ettles, an imp Perth, Australia, lin Dolphins to five hits whi out six and walking four c to his third complete ga season.

South Alabama (41-20) the torrid hitting it star 2-game set against Mississippi before the tc The Jaguars have scored their last three games.

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Continued on Page 2
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Getting back

(AP Laserphoto)

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Knically's hit gives VCU win

By MARK C. MATHIS
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Knically had been hitless in his
 previous three times up Wednesday
 afternoon at Denes Field, and with
 VCU down 8-3, it needed somebody
 to do something.

"I had been pressing a little bit,
 and he (starter Kevin Dougherty)
 had done a good job keeping the
 ball down," said Knically, VCU's
 catcher. "I'm not going to say I
 went up there thinking I was going
 to hit a homer. I just wanted to get
 a fly ball to get one guy in. It was
 supposed to happen and it did. I got
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VCU coach Tony Guzzo said he
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SBC Tournament

South Alabama 11
 Jacksonville 2

VCU 11
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 walked in that position. But he's
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 ing position."

Swinging with guys in scoring
 position is a specialty of South
 Alabama's Mike Mordecai, who
 was left off the All-SBC team.
 Mordecai didn't let on if he was
 upset about it, not off the field,
 anyway. But South Alabama coach
 Steve Kittrell let his feelings be
 known.

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 was," Kittrell said Wednesday
 afternoon. "Mike is one of the best
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 Gonzalez picked up the hitting,
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 ting five RBI as the Jaguars
 romped 11-2.

USA was scheduled to play
 Western in tonight's 7:30 game.
 Jacksonville (36-23) met South
 Florida (26-32) in this afternoon's
 opening game of the second round.

Virginia Commonwealth (42-14)
 faced North Carolina Charlotte
 (28-26-1) in this afternoon's second
 game.
 Jacksonville-South Alabama

Mark Ethles, an import from
 Perth, Australia, limited the
 Dolphins to five hits while striking
 out six and walking four on the way
 to his third complete game of the
 season.

South Alabama (41-20) continued
 the torrid hitting it started with a
 2-game set against Southern
 Mississippi before the tournament.
 The Jaguars have scored 41 runs in
 their last three games.

"We're just not right now. And I
 want us to stay hot like Western
 was a couple of weeks ago," Kit-
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 back in April.

Gonzalez was one of the hottest
 hitters, stroking a 2-run homer in
 the third inning and a 3-run shot to
 center field in the sixth. He has 16
 homers on the season, surpassing
 Western's Chris Turner at the top
 of the league list.

"I didn't think I would hit that
 many, but if that's the best way to

Continued on Page 2
 Column 1, This Section

ed to be the winning hit in
 win, and six strikeouts in the
 two thirds innings of relief
 changed all of that.

In Whitney's last outing,
 shelled by Bowling Green
 first round of the district
 and had to be pulled in f
 Wes Baker. Arm problems
 lot to do with it.

"When I go out and have
 game like that, I try to forg
 next time out," said White
 day, but I sucked it up bec
 knew how badly we had
 this game."

The win assures East of
 today's championship game
 Russellville, a 6-3 victo
 Franklin-Simpson. Whitne

Daily News

S

Thursday, May 19, 1988

Jones' t

T 69

WKU slugs out 10-2 win

D. IV. 5-19-88

Continued From Page 1-B

Pete Davids, who later left the game with a pulled hamstring, reached on a error and scored when left fielder Scott Muscat let a Turner hit roll to the wall. Mueller scored in the fourth on a Gerald Ingram hit that was overthrown by second baseman Chris Marien.

A wild pitch and an error allowed Chris Gage and Cash to score in ding-ding fashion in the fifth.

Robinson was extremely unhappy by that point. Earlier, his team, which fell to 28-26-1 in the double-elimination tournament, had blown some opportunities by having men picked off first in the first and third

innings. He also didn't like the way his team batted against Steve Bercier, who gave up four hits in six innings of work.

"The kinds of swings we were taking weren't good," Robinson said. "Their pitcher located well. He didn't let you set up on any one pitch."

Western coach Joel Murrie liked what he saw from Bercier, too.

"He maintained his poise and gave exactly the kind of effort I wanted," Murrie said. "I told him to give me six good innings and then we'd give the ball to the bullpen."

Meanwhile, Western's hitters

were puzzled by UNCC starter Glenn Harris' assortment of off-speed pitches and change ups. The first time around, anyway.

"We started slow and were a little anxious," Cash said.

But, Western got over the jitters and started pounding Harris, who gave way to Steve Southard in the sixth inning.

"Good hitters make the adjustment the second time around," Murrie said. "And a good ballclub takes advantage of the other team's mistakes. That's why we won."

Western did it in a vintage way.

VCU staves off loss. 11-10

D. IV. 5-19-88

Continued From Page 1-B

score runs, I'll do it. We got off to a good start. We had a little advantage because we've played here. You don't know what to expect because you never play these teams."

South Florida-Virginia Commonwealth

When the Rams spotted South Florida a 6-0 lead after four innings, Guzzo thought it was time to pack the bats.

"I thought it was over," he said. "I didn't think we could come back. I knew we would battle, but I

didn't think we had the ability against a team like theirs."

The Rams tied it again in the eighth, then waited for their last at-bat.

When right fielder John Callis got on to start the ninth, Guzzo's strategy was just to get him in any way possible.

A sacrifice bunt moved Callis to second. A sharply hit grounder to Scott Miller at second by David Ziara let Callis go to third. VCU won the game on Billy Wright's high bouncer to shortstop Pete Tsotsos, which scored Callis.

"I was looking for anything to hit," Wright said.

He found the game winner on an 0-2 pitch.

Jacksonville-South Alabama 000 001 010-2 5 1
 Jacksonville 102 305 00x-11 10 0
 South Alabama W-Etles (8-5), L-Kulina (3-5)
 South Florida-Virginia Commonwealth 031 200 220-10 10 6
 South Florida 000 102 611-11 12 4
 Virginia Commonwealth W-Zona (13-2), L-Peters (5-8)

NBA playoffs

By The Associated Press
 All Times EDT
 Conference Semifinals
 (Best-of-seven)
 EASTERN CONFERENCE
 Boston vs. Atlanta
 Wednesday, May 11
 Boston 110, Atlanta 101
 Friday, May 13
 Boston 108, Atlanta 97
 Sunday, May 15
 Atlanta 110, Boston 92
 Monday, May 16
 Atlanta 118, Boston 109
 Wednesday, May 18
 Atlanta 112, Boston 104, Atlanta leads series 3-2
 Friday, May 20
 Boston at Atlanta, 8:05 p.m.
 Sunday, May 22
 Atlanta at Boston, 1 p.m., if necessary
 Detroit 4, Chicago 1
 Detroit 93, Chicago 82
 Chicago 105, Detroit 95
 Detroit 101, Chicago 79
 Detroit 96, Chicago 77
 Detroit 102, Chicago 98

to Wallace. Well, at least
 "We began to hit a little
 I guess that's a good sign
 a good sign," Wallace said
 we don't play better because
 we played today, tomorrow
 our last game."

Hoosiers dominant

GLASGOW, Ky. - drivers dominated at County Speedway Saturday. Petro of Indiana held off John Gill placed third. The Flying 50 went to Payne of Greensburg.

Donald Wiley won Modified Street Feature. Michael Emberton won Feature.

A powder puff race will be added to this slate.

Here are Saturday's results:

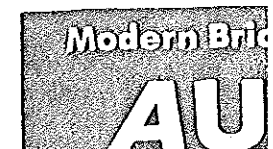
Southcentral 50
 Petro
 Witcher
 Coffey
 Atwood
 Payne
 Feistretcher
 Pace
 Wayne Coakley
 Reed
 Highbaugh
 Modified Street
 Feature
 Wiley
 C.W. Medley
 Edwards
 Johnny Threl
 Mike Haynes
 Street
 Feature
 Emberton
 Daniels
 Sanders
 Muller
 Wheeler

Purples to Wildc

Bowling Green's bow dropped only its second of the season to Franklin Simpson 151-153 at Hobson Green day.

The Purples (13-2) Glasgow today. Here day's results:

Franklin Simpson 151
 Johnny Cardwell 34
 Hunter Bowen 35
 Ross Rossier 39
 Clark 43
 Bowling Green 153
 Jamie Davis 37
 P.J. McDougal 38
 Brandon Beal 38
 Yantez Murphy 40



VCU first to win two games

5-26-88

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

The survivors put away the pretenders early in Thursday's second round of the Sun Belt Conference Baseball Tournament at Dienes Field.

But the coach one very strong survivor, Virginia Commonwealth, which faced Western today at 4:30, realized his team may be headed back to Richmond by tonight.

"In this kind of situation, I feel comfortable because we're still here. With the brackets the way they are, the team we're getting ready to play might be the best one in the tournament," VCU coach Tony Guzzo said, not knowing that would turn out to be Western.

The Rams chased North Carolina Charlotte starter Chris Haney after facing only six batters in the first inning, in which they ran out to a 5-0 lead on the way to a 9-0 shelling in the second afternoon game.

Sun Belt tourney

Jacksonville 11
South Florida 1
VCU 9
UNCC 0

Jacksonville got two home runs from catcher Tony McGee and another homer from right fielder Jose Rodriguez to blast South Florida 11-1 in the first game of the afternoon.

The Rams met Western after the Hilltoppers dismantled South Alabama 7-1 under the lights. Jacksonville took on South Alabama in the first game Friday. The winner of the first game and the loser of the second game were

to get together at 7:30 tonight. The winners in the second afternoon game and tonight's game would meet Saturday in the first of two possible championship games starting at 1 p.m., with a second contest set for 4, if necessary.

Virginia Commonwealth-UNCC

Mark Dunford put on perhaps the most impressive pitching performance of the tournament, so far, with a three-hit, complete-game shutout for VCU, which upped its record to 43-14-1.

The junior walked three and struck out three in running his record to 9-0. After walking leadoff batter Calvin Smith, Dunford retired the next 10 batters, not allowing a 49er on until the fourth inning.

"I felt real good," said Dunford, who is best with the breaking ball, working ahead of the hitters. "He (Guzzo) told me about the fifth or sixth inning that he didn't want to

use anybody else unless he had to. It was my best nine-inning performance. I had a seven-inning shutout, but it doesn't compare to a tournament game."

And while Dunford was dazzling on the mound, shortstop Tim Barker continued to abuse tournament pitching.

The quiet sophomore went 4 for 4 Thursday, scoring twice and collecting three RBI. Barker has reached base the last 10 times he's been up.

"I've been getting my cuts in, and things have been falling for me," Barker said. "The last 10 or 15 games I've been picking up the pitches better."

"He's probably been the most consistent offensively when we've needed someone," Guzzo said.

Jacksonville-South Florida
Jacksonville didn't make a good

Continued On Page 5
Column 4, This Section

Jacksonville plays better

Continued From Page 1-B

accounting of itself in Wednesday's 11-2 loss to South Alabama in the opening game of the tournament.

"We have too good a club to get beat like we did Wednesday," Jacksonville coach Tom Bradley said. "I was certainly embarrassed. The players didn't say a word on the way back to the hotel. I'm just glad we were ready to play."

McGee, Rodriguez and pitcher Joel Shapiro were a little more ready than the others.

McGee went 3 for 4 with three RBI to go with his pair of shots.

"We knew if we lost we went home," McGee said of Jacksonville's renewed good play in going to 37-23.

Rodriguez went 2 for 4 with two RBI to add to his homer total.

But Bradley was most impressed with Shapiro's performance.

The junior right-hander threw a six-hitter with eight strikeouts and five walks.

"He's been our best pitcher down the stretch," Bradley said.

The only time South Florida threatened before bowing out of the tournament at 26-33 was in the first inning, when it scored the lone run. But Shapiro worked his way out of a bases-loaded predicament with one out and cruised the rest of the way.

Jacksonville-South Florida 020 020 340-11 12 0
Jacksonville 100 000 000-1 6 1
South Florida W-Shapiro (7-4), L-Jimaki (1-4)
Virginia Commonwealth-North Carolina
Charlotte 501 200 001-9 12 1
VCU 000 000 000-0 3 2
UNCC W-Dunford (9-0), L-Haney (6-7).

Kizziah puts USA down

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

Steve Kittrell left no doubt as to who he thought did the most damage to his South Alabama baseball team Thursday night.

Daren Kizziah.

Western 7 South Alabama 1

VITAL STATS: Western pitcher Daren Kizziah allowed eight hits, but had a shutout going into the ninth inning. Western loaded the bases in the second inning, but came away empty.

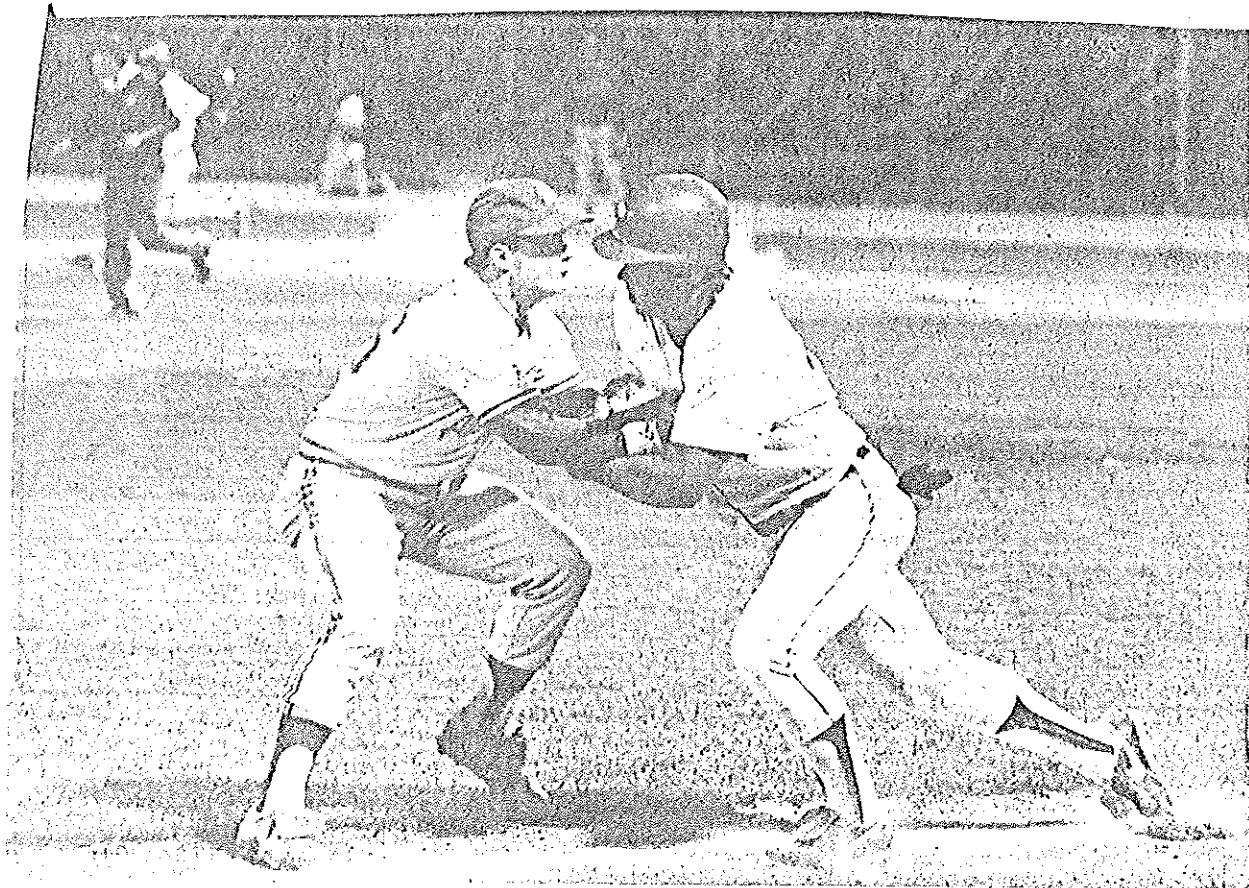
KEY PLAYS: Chris Gage hit a solo home run to lead off the fifth inning and spark a 5-run rally that buried South Alabama. Chris Turner hit his 16th home run of the season in the eighth inning.

NEXT GAME: Western played Virginia Commonwealth in a winner's bracket final today at 4:30 p.m. The winner of that game advanced to the championship game Saturday at 1 p.m. At stake: The Sun Belt Conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

South Alabama 000 000 001—1 8 2
Western 000 051 01x—7 7 1
W—Kizziah (11-6), L—Perez (10-5).

"Daren was the difference in the game," said Kittrell, South Alabama's coach, after Western sent the Jaguars into the loser's bracket with a 7-1 romp in Sun Belt Conference Tournament at Denes Field. "We've faced him three

Continued On Page 5
Column 1, This Section



(Staff Photo by LaMar Weaver)

No return

JAMES WAMBACH (right) of Western gets caught Steve Oldham Thursday at Denes Field. Western in a rundown by South Alabama third baseman won the Sun Belt Conference Tournament game 7-1.

D.N. 5-20-88

Western beats USA 7-1

D.N. 5-20-88

Continued From Page 1-B

times, and this was by far his best outing. We couldn't get anything going against him."

When told of Kittrell's assessment, Western coach Joel Murrie agreed completely after his club went to 43-19.

"I told him to give us his best effort, and he did," Murrie said.

Kizziah missed a shutout by the wild hop of a Kent Williams shot into left field that bounded over Stan Cook's head and allowed pinch hitter Harold Dueltt to score in the ninth inning.

"I wanted the shutout bad. Going that far and not getting it hurt," said Kizziah, who hadn't recorded a shutout this year, but did run his record to 11-6 despite giving up eight hits. "I liked throwing under the lights. It got me pumped up."

The game, played in front of 1,100 fans, looked like it would come down to who could get one run.

USA had a runner on third in the second inning, but came away empty. Western loaded up the bases in the second, but with one out second baseman Dewayne Jones made an unassisted double play on a shot by Chris Gage.

Remember that name South

field shuffle for the injured Pete Davids, uncorked only his third homer of the season on a 2-0 pitch to lead off the inning.

"I was just trying to get on base and it happened to go over," Gage said. "I thought if I could get on I could start something."

Although the method was different, the result was the same.

Mike Cash singled and was brought home by a Gary Mueller single, Mueller scored when right fielder Logan Collins let James Wambach's single roll to the wall, making it a triple. The single was enough to bring Cook and Mike Latham home. Both of them had walked.

It was 5-0 by the time Western was finished. The Hilltoppers added insurance runs in the sixth and eighth innings. Chris Turner's 16th homer of the year over the center-field wall sealed it.

"I definitely thought it was going to be a 1- or 2-run game," Murrie said. "I was thinking how long do I let Kizziah go? We will usually let him get four or five runs scored on him. But I didn't think we'd be able to this time."

Virginia Commonwealth — a

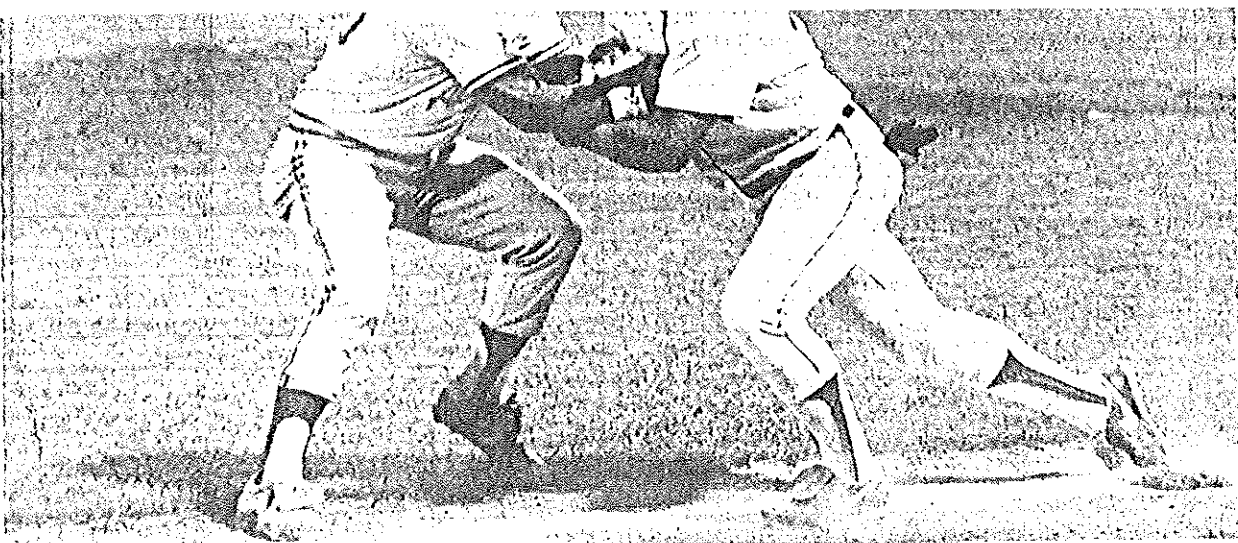
solid team that shows more and more with each game that it deserves to be mentioned in the same breath as Western and South Alabama — loomed ahead for the Hilltoppers. They were the last two unbeaten teams in the tournament this morning.

The winner would advance to Saturday afternoon's championship game at 1 p.m. The loser would have to turn right around and play the winner of the South Alabama-Jacksonville game at 7:30 in another elimination contest.

With complete games from both starting pitchers, VCU and Western had rested bullpens to go into the stretch run of this tournament, the winner of which automatically advances to the NCAA Tournament, starting next week at eight regional sites across the country.

The plan was for Jeff Ledogar to go in this afternoon's game, with Heath Haynes coming back either tonight or in the championship round.

VCU has displayed a lot of emotion throughout the tournament. Murrie promised a lot of cheerleading from both dugouts.



(Staff Photo by LaMar Weaver)

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D.V. 5-20-88

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D.V. 5-20-88

Continued From Page 1-B

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Remember that name, South Alabama (41-21) won't forget it anytime soon.

The Hilltoppers had men at second and third in the fourth, coming away empty again, before Gage opened a gate that USA starter Rafael Perez couldn't come close to shutting.

Gage, playing in left in an out-

field shuffle for the injured Pete Davids, uncorked only his third homer of the season on a 2-0 pitch to lead off the inning.

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Virginia Commonwealth — a

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VCU hands Western 4-3 loss in tourney on homer in ninth

Special to The Courier-Journal

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Virginia Commonwealth's John Callis cracked a home run to lead off the bottom of the ninth inning and hand Western Kentucky a 4-3 loss in the Sun Belt Conference baseball tournament yesterday.

Western then played a loser's bracket game against Jacksonville. The winner faces VCU at 2 p.m. today in the double-elimination tournament.

Virginia Commonwealth was up 2-

COLLEGE BASEBALL

0 in the fourth inning and led 3-0 after seven. But the Hilltoppers rallied to score two runs in the eighth and one in the top of the ninth.

Jeff Zona improved to 14-2 with the win, while Otis Lewis slipped to 3-2 with the loss. VCU is 44-14-1, Western 43-20.

SUN BELT CONFERENCE

At Bowling Green, Ky.
Western Kentucky 000 000 021—3 6 3
Virginia Common. 600 201 001—4 6 2
Jeff Ledogar, Jeff Meier (5), Otis Lewis (9) and Mike Latham. Jerry Dipoto, Jeff Zona (8) and Adam Knickely. W — Zona (14-2). L — Lewis (3-2). 2B — James Wombah (W), Tim Barker (V). HR — John Callis (V). Records — WKU 43-20, Virginia Commonwealth 44-14-1.
South Alabama 000 001 403—8 14 1
Jacksonville ... 003 021 021—9 13 2
Mike Zimmerman, Scott Bray (5), Mark Ettles (9) and Brian Neveau. Steve Smedley, Matt Brady (6), Brian Evans (7) and Tony McGee. W — Evans (8-1). L — Bray (0-1). 2B — Neveau (SA), Steve Oldham 2 (SA). Ernie Carr 2 (J). Phil Sottile (J), Terry Norvella (J). 3B — Neveau (SA). Records — South Alabama 41-22; Jacksonville 38-23.

(Thursday)

South Alabama . 000 000 001—1 8 2
Western Kentucky 000 051 01x—7 7 1
Rafael Perez, Scott Bray (5) and Brian Neveau. Daren Kizziah and Mike Latham. W — Kizziah (11-6). L — Perez (10-5). 2B — Cash (W). 3B — Kent Williams (SA). HR — Chris Gage (WK). Chris Turner (WK). Records — South Alabama 41-21, Western 43-19.

SUN BELT TOURNAMENT C.J.
At Bowling Green, Ky. 5-22-88
 (Championship)
 Va. Common. ... 202 000 012-7 12 2
 Jacksonville ... 010 000 000-1 7 2
 Ricky Morris and Adam Kniceley, Joel
 Shapero, Brian Evans (7), Steve Smedley
 (9) and Tony McGee, W—Morris (4-0), L—
 Shapero (7-5), 2B—Terry Norvella (J), Rec-
 ords — Va. Commonwealth 45-14-1, Jack-
 sonville 39-24.

Callis' home run blows out WKU's Sun Belt candle

5-22-88
 By MARK C. MATHIS
 Daily News Sports Editor

John Callis' big swing in the bot-
 tom of the ninth inning Friday did
 to Western what a gale would do to
 a candle.

Virginia Commonwealth's Callis
 erased a gallant Hilltopper com-
 eback with his towering leadoff
 home run over the left-field fence,
 giving the Rams a 4-3 win in the
 winner's bracket final of the Sun
 Belt Conference Tournament.

The sudden shift in momentum
 stripped Western's gears, and left a
 Denes Field crowd of 650 in stunned
 silence as the Rams jumped and
 screamed happily around their
 hero.

"I was looking fastball," Callis
 said. "I had been getting beat all
 day, and I was just guessing.
 Luckily, it was there."

More than just beating Western,
 the loss left the Hilltoppers in a
 depressive state that lasted into the
 elimination game against Jackson-
 ville, and Western was bounced
 from the double-elimination tour-
 nament by a 6-4 count in the second
 game Friday night. VCU beat
 Jacksonville 7-1 in the title game
 Saturday.

The big inning — Western's
 trademark throughout the season —
 never materialized against VCU
 starter Jerry Dipoto until the sev-
 enth inning.

"What VCU and Jacksonville did

WKU-VCU

VCU 4

Western 3

Western-JU

Jacksonville 6

Western 4

was prevent us from having the big
 inning," Western coach Joel Mur-
 rie said. "It wasn't so much what
 we didn't do as it was the other
 teams played exceptionally well."

The Hilltoppers had beaten North
 Carolina Charlotte in the opening
 round with a string of 3-run inn-
 ings. Western beat South Alabama
 Thursday night with a 5-run out-
 burst.

Western, which finished at 43-21,
 never got close to such a rally
 against VCU, although it did have a
 couple of late uprisings.

Western touched the Ram starter
 for two singles in the top of the
 eighth, and Coach Tony Guzzo pull-
 ed him in favor of Jeff Zona, a
 regular starter but pressed into

Continued On Page 16
 Column 4, This Section

Tops fall to Jacksonville

D.N. 5-22-84

Continued From Page 11-A

relief service because of the Rams' weak bullpen.

It almost became VCU's undoing.

With Mike Cash and Stan Cook in scoring position, Gary Mueller hit a high bouncer to Zona, who fielded the ball and made an off-balance throw to catcher Adam Knicely. The toss went way over Knicely's head, scoring Cash and Cook. Mike Latham reached third on the play, but was stranded.

"That was a big momentum shift. We had been playing well to that point. I was afraid because they are such a big-inning club," VCU coach Tony Guzzo said. "The guys were getting tight, but I told them it was not their game, it was our game."

Stan Cook tied the game in the ninth with his RBI single scoring Juan Galan from second. And it looked as if Western might indeed have enough momentum to snatch away the victory.

Then came a little pep talk from Guzzo — and a huge smash by Callis on a 1-1 pitch from Otis Lewis.

"They were complaining about a strike they thought should've been called, and I told them to quit bellyaching. If they were good

enough to be champions of the tournament, they were good enough to go out and get a run right now."

They did, and Western was in trouble.

Murrie said it "would've been very uncharacteristic of our team" to get down after the first game. Western hadn't lost two straight at home this year.

But the fire seemed to be gone, even though the Hilltoppers came back to tie Jacksonville after it had gone in front 3-0 in the elimination game.

"After the first game was over, we knew we could win the second. We just couldn't pull through with the hits," said catcher Mike Latham, who had an outstanding defensive tournament, but closed his career going hitless in 14 at-bats, but drawing five walks. "The whole tournament we couldn't hit as well as we had in the season. Everybody slowed down. I slowed down a whole lot in the tournament."

Juan Galan, who made the probable last out of the season and his career, felt the team droop after the VCU game.

"It was such an emotional let-down. We were drained out after the comeback, and then to lose it

on one pitch like that.... We started back a little too late in the second game," Galan said.

Jacksonville, which made the elimination game by knocking off South Alabama 9-8 in Friday's first game, was up on Western 3-0 before the Hilltoppers woke up.

Western tied it in the fourth, only to have Jacksonville come back in its half of the inning with three more runs. The 6-3 lead would prove to be enough.

The Hilltoppers had a sterling chance in the sixth when they loaded the bases, but everybody was left on when Cook flew out to center field. A Cook double scored Chris Turner in the eighth, and Western had two on when Galan ended it with a double play.

Western, the West Division winner, is a very long shot for an NCAA bid.

"We deserve a bid, but I'm not holding my breath," a disappointed Murrie said.

That's probably a good idea.

Western-Virginia Commonwealth
Western 000 000 021-3 6 3
Virginia Commonwealth 000 201 001-4 5 2
W—Zona (14-2). L—Lewis (3-2).
Western-Jacksonville
Western 001 200 010-4 10 1
Jacksonville 120 300 00x-6 10 2
W—Z.B. Hamilton (9-3). L—Heath Haynes (5-2).

KENTUCKY TIRE EXCHANGE
AND KELLY
YOUR TIRE SAVINGS
TEAM GET ALL THE QUALITY OF THE BIG

Photo by LaMar Weaver

ld. Jacksonville's Eric
om the East Division,

VCU has experience of winning tourney

By MARK C. MATHIS
Daily News Sports Editor

Tony Guzzo was just looking for a little tournament experience.

The coach and his Virginia Commonwealth team got four games worth. But they picked up a little bonus in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament — the championship.

The Rams completed a somewhat amazing run through the four-day tourney at Denes Field, coming from six runs down to beat South Florida in the opening game, then putting away North Carolina Charlotte, Western and Jacksonville in order, to win the school's first SBC baseball title Saturday with a 7-1 bruising of Jacksonville in the championship game. Jacksonville finished its season at 39-24.

What's amazing isn't VCU's ability to play the national pastime. The Rams do it very well, with fundamental baseball. There's no power in the Rams' lineup, but they do the little things like lay down the bunts and turn the double plays.

No, what's amazing is that this is the first time VCU has earned its way into the tournament. The two times it has been in the tournament before, everybody was invited.

And neither Guzzo nor his team had any lofty expectations once they got here.

"Our goal coming in was to be representative of our side," said Guzzo, who has only had two winning seasons in six at VCU and his first East Division title this year.

SBC tourney

VCU 7
Jacksonville 1

VITAL STATS: Ricky Morris scattered seven Jacksonville hits while pitching a complete game. VCU leadoff hitter Billy Wright scored three runs in three at-bats.

KEY PLAYS: Wright and Adam Kniceley led off the game with bunts and scored. Wright led off the third inning with a single. Kniceley bunted his way on again. Both scored making it 4-1. That was all the Rams would need, although they picked up insurance runs in the eighth and ninth innings.

NEXT GAME: VCU (45-14-1) awaits Monday's NCAA Tournament draw. Jacksonville's season ended at 35-24.

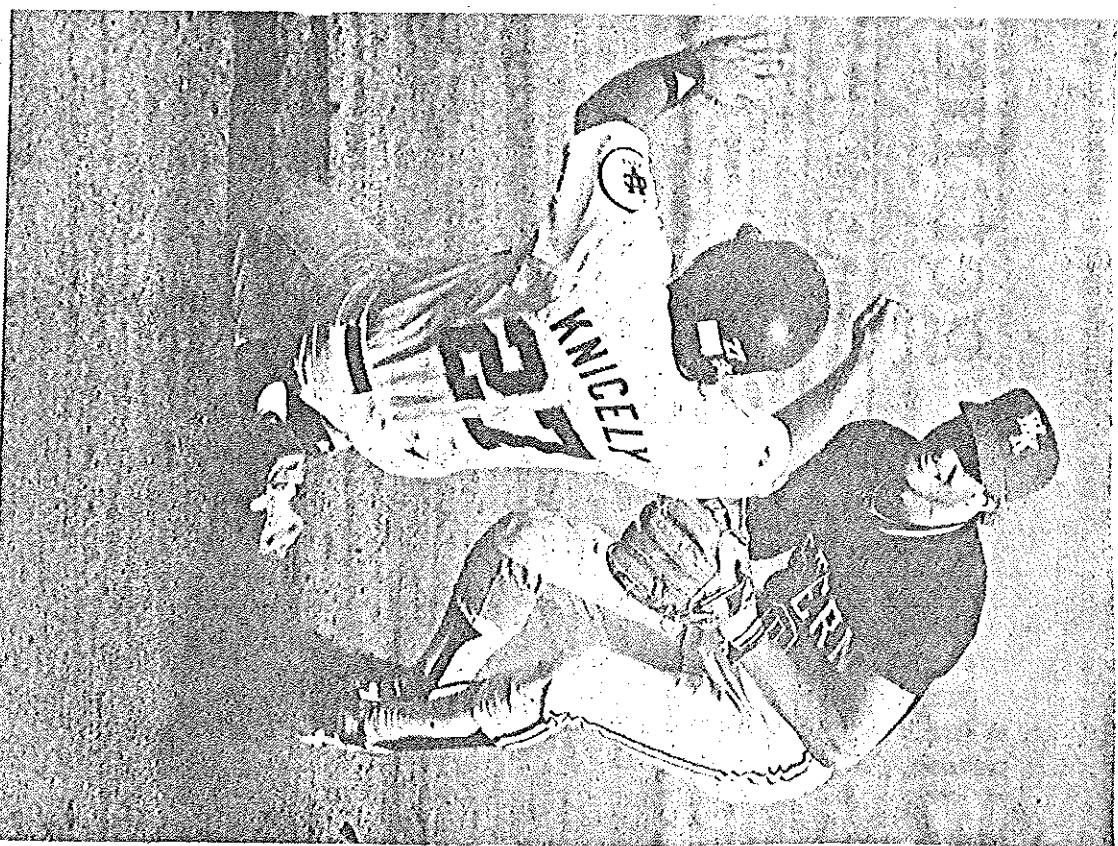
Virginia Commonwealth 202 000 017-7 12 2
Jacksonville 010 000 000-1 1 2
W—Morris (4-0), L—Shapiro (7-5).

"No team from the East Division had ever won the tournament at a West Division school. We took that pressure off the guys from the start. Our expectations were not to win the tournament, but to get some good tournament experience. We were going to do whatever we had to to win one game."

And that took some doing as the Rams fell behind South Florida 6-0 and 8-3 in the opener before pulling out an 11-10 victory.

"We were just happy to be here," said shortstop Tim Barker, the tournament's Most Valuable Player. "We just wanted to see how far we could go. We had win-

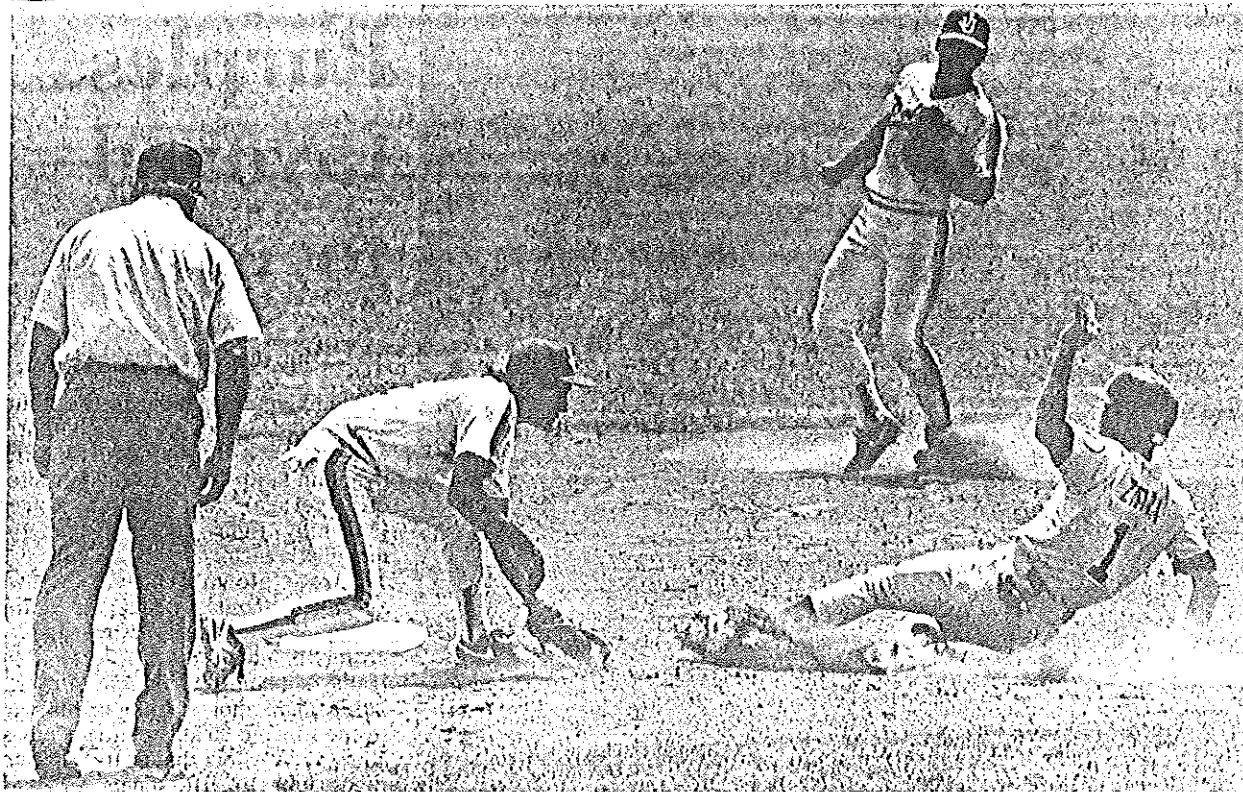
Continued On Page 16
Column 1, This Section



(Staff Photo by Kevin Eans)

Same slide and dance

MIKE CASH (right) of Western sidesteps Virginia Commonwealth's Adam Kniceley trying to complete a double play Friday at Denes Field. Western lost to VCU 4-3 on a ninth-inning home run by John Callis.



(Staff Photo by LaMar Weaver)

Caught stealing

DAVID ZIARA (right) of Virginia Commonwealth is caught stealing by Jacksonville's Jesus Rivera in Saturday's Sun Belt Conference Tournament cham-

pionship game at Denes Field. Jacksonville's Eric Whitsord looks on. VCU, from the East Division, won 7-1.

Tops

Continued From Page 1
relief service because of weak bullpen.

It almost became VCU's. With Mike Cash and St. scoring position, Gary M. high bouncer to Zona, v the ball and made an throw to catcher Adan. The toss went way over head, scoring Cash and (Latham reached third or but was stranded.

"That was a big shift. We had been playing that point. I was afraid they are such a big-inn VCU socah Tony Guzzo guys were getting tight, them it was not their game."

Stan Cook tied the game ninth with his RBI sing Juan Galan from second looked as if Western might have enough momentum away the victory.

Then came a little pep Guzzo — and a huge Callis on a 1-1 pitch Lewis.

"They were complainin' strike they thought should called, and I told them bellyaching. If they w

VCU Rams ram way to Sun Belt crown

Continued From Page 11-A

ing it in the back of our minds."

Barker was a big part of why VCU did win it. In going 9 for 13 in the tournament — 8 for 11 going into the final — with three doubles, six RBI and two stolen bases, the shy sophomore did damage to opposing teams than almost any other player in the tournament.

"Along with everybody else, I wanted to contribute. I just happened to be on a hot streak," Barker said modestly.

VCU didn't power the ball except when it had to. Catcher Adam Knicely, younger brother of former major leaguer Alan, hit a grand slam to ignite the rally against South Florida. John Callis smashed a homer to beat Western in Friday's winner's bracket final.

Most of the time the Rams were bunting and running, mixing in a few singles and doubles to make things interesting.

The first inning of the championship game was a perfect example

of Ram Ball.

Billy Wright leads off the game with a bunt. Knicely bunts his way on, advancing Wright. Barker draws a walk to load the bases. A wild pitch scores Wright. A sacrifice fly scores Knicely.

It was the same kind of thing in the third inning, with a single thrown in, when VCU picked up another couple of runs to make it 4-1.

That would be all the Rams would need with starter Ricky Morris going the distance and scattering seven Jacksonville hits.

"We did exactly what we wanted. We kept the lead, and that was important in keeping us in our game plan," Guzzo said.

That plan was the baseball equivalent of the four corners in basketball. Manufacturing runs is a way of life when a team plays in a Triple A stadium where the ball doesn't carry very well.

And that assembly line has carried the Rams to a 45-14-1 record and the NCAA Tournament.

KENTUCKY AND KEL YOUR TII TEAM GET A

BC comes through for Western

D. N. 5-22-68

Well, Bowling Green, it took a little preaching, a little prodding, a little griping and a little soap box action, but you responded to Western's first Sun Belt Conference Tournament like you usually do when the school really needs something big of you.

You went out to the ballgames.

Most of the time, the university — really the focal point of this town — is taken for granted.

Oh, the businessmen love the students and the money they pour into the coffers. The city loves the



Mark C. Mathis
Daily News
Sports Editor
Commentary

many financial advantages Western gives it. The owners of the numerous rental properties certainly appreciate what Western's students bring them every month.

Sometimes, though, Western, is looked upon as a nuisance by the community. It's students in particular.

But when Western needs support from the pocketbook or in the form of bodies in the seats, most of the time, the community responds. Especially if it's athletics related. There were roughly 1,300 people

at Denes Field for the first Western baseball game ever under the lights Wednesday night. About 1,100 showed up Thursday night.

It was, as one local high school coach said to me a couple of times during the week, a happening.

The people who contributed to raise the \$20,000 to rent the lights made it happen. So did the folks who showed up for the games.

It's very disappointing that the

Continued On Page 15
Column 1, This Section

BG answers WKU's call for help again

D.N. 5-22-84

Continued From Page 11-A

Hilltoppers couldn't advance to the championship round Saturday, but Coach Joel Murrie never guaranteed Western would win the tournament. He just guaranteed the Hilltoppers would put on a good show. For the most part, they did.

There has been much talk the last week about Western getting permanent lights at Denes Field. But, if facilities are going to be improved, Western should go all the way. It should build a baseball facility that can at least compete with the others in the Sun Belt Conference. It doesn't have to cost a million bucks. But it doesn't need to be a joke, which is what one veteran conference watcher called it at the beginning of the week.

"I've had some big things happen here," Murrie said Wednesday night. "But tonight the program took a big turn toward the future. Tonight showed that the community can support a major college program."

What happened this past week was a bigger test of Murrie's program than any he would face on the field. He has been trying to get improved facilities since Western moved into the SBC in 1982.

Budgetary concerns have kept that from happening. Much has been donated for Dave Roberts' football program. And a sizable chunk was raised in short order to put lights up at Smith Stadium. Now every football game next season will be under the lights.

For permanent lighting and a small, stadium-like facility to be built exactly where Denes Field is now, it would take close to \$300,000. Football lights cost a little less than

half that. That money was raised in just a few months.

Murrie realizes that baseball isn't as big in the university's eyes as football. But there's no reason a first-class facility can't be built so it can at least compete with the other teams in its league.

Politics is a part of this process, and Murrie knows there are other more pressing priorities that the university must address — namely increased salaries to keep and attract good faculty and other physical plant improvements to buildings at the school.

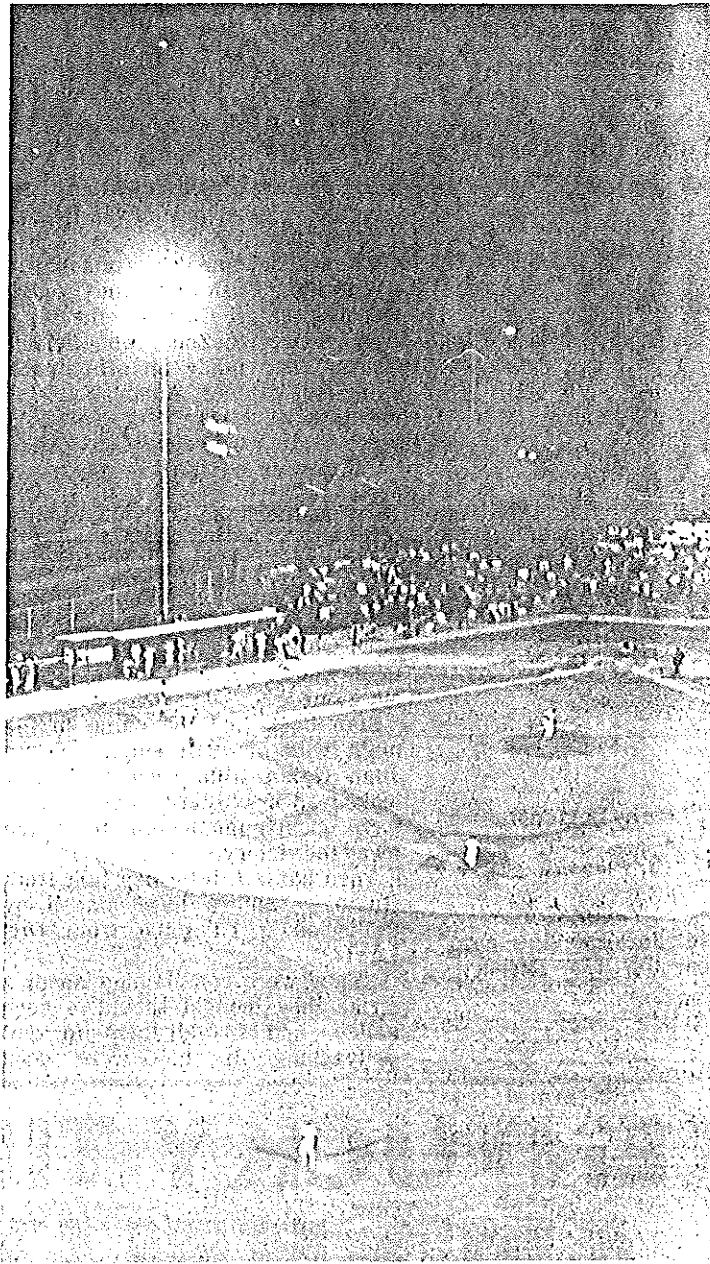
"If we're going to renovate the facility or get lights, it has to be a community effort," Murrie said.

The community has given a lot to Western. Western, though, pays the community back a great deal. Has for years.

The crowds this week told me that people will come out to see big-time, or at least Division I conference championship, baseball. And that's the thing. If Western did go ahead with facility improvements and lighting, it would need to bring more name teams to Denes for night games. Western might even be able to squeeze out a television game on ESPN once or twice a year, just like the big boys. But Western couldn't exactly be able to play Middle Tennessee and Morehead and look for the kind of support the conference tournament drew.

Those close to the team say that it might take four years to raise the funds for a new baseball facility.

We say it needs to be sooner. We also feel the community will help. It just needs to be asked.



No light resp

THE LIGHTS at Denes Field shine on the 1,300 fans week. Wednesday night during Western's first-round game from of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament this past

WKU's again

that money was raised in months.

realizes that baseball is in the university's eyes. But there's no reason a facility can't be built so it at least compete with the others in its league.

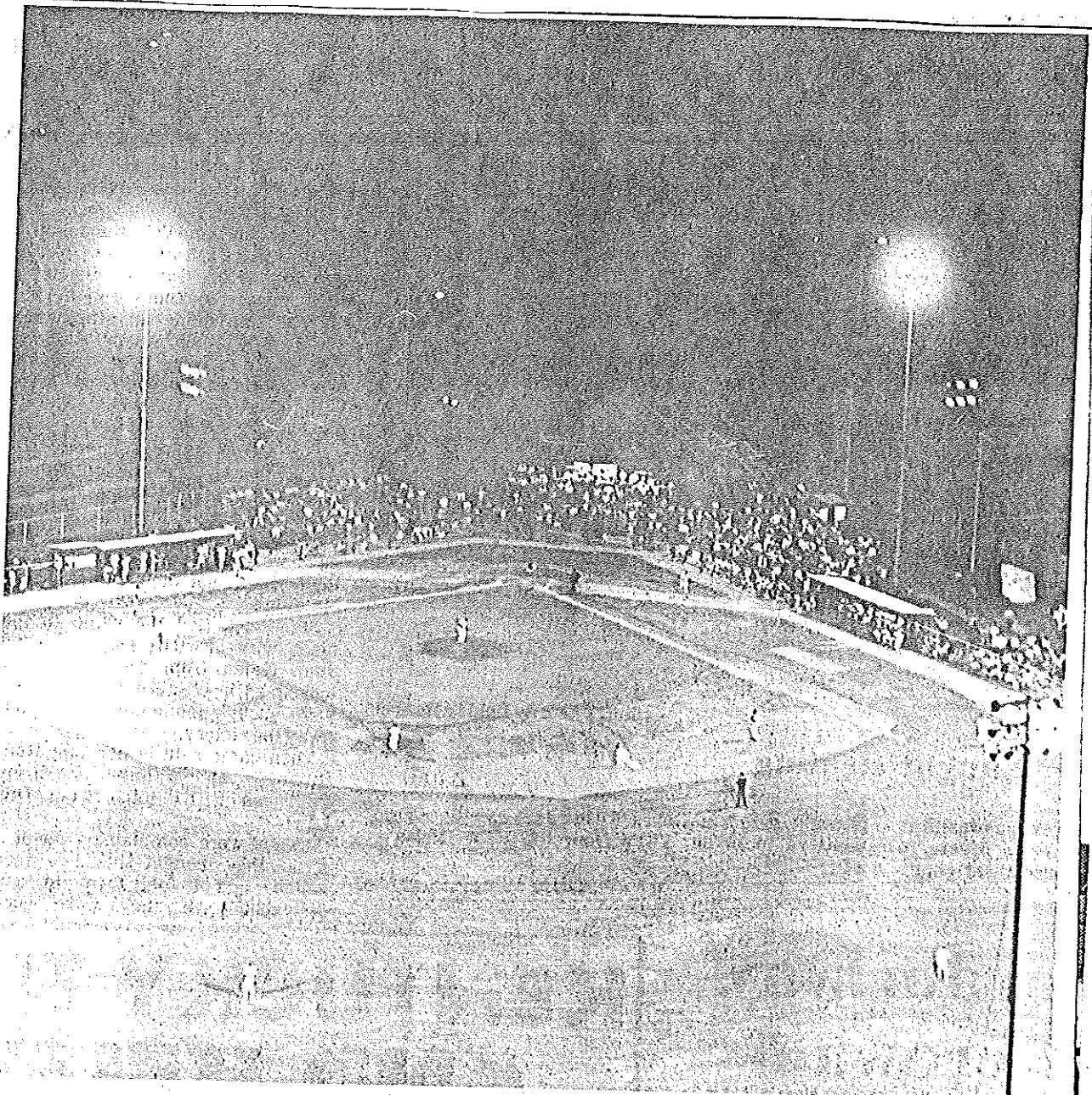
As a part of this process, the university knows there are other pressing priorities that the administration must address — namely salaries to keep and attract faculty and other physical improvements to buildings.

When going to renovate the stadium lights, it has to be a real effort," Murrie said. The community has given a lot to Western, though, pays the bill back a great deal. Has

As this week told me, the lights will come out to see at least Division I competition, baseball. The thing is, if Western did it with facility improvements, it would need to name teams to Denes Stadium. Western might not squeeze out a telecast on ESPN once or twice like the big boys. But it didn't exactly be able to beat Tennessee and it should look for the kind of conference tournament

to the team say that it took four years to raise the money for a new baseball facility.

The lights need to be sooner. We need the community will help. The money should be asked.



(Staff Photo by Kevin Eans)

No light response

THE LIGHTS at Denes Field shine on the 1,300 fans Wednesday night during Western's first-round game of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament this past

week. The lights were rented with contributions from community supporters.

D. IV.
5-22-88

Murrie camp ^{D.V.} set for June 6 ⁵⁻²⁷ ⁵⁻⁸

Western baseball coach Joel Murrie and Warren County Parks will hold a baseball camp June 6-9 at Griffin Park for children aged 9-12.

The day camp will run from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The fee is \$50, and registration can be made the day of the camp. For more information, call Murrie at 745-6078 during the day or 842-2622 at night.

WKU basketball camps June 5-10

Western's men's basketball camps will start with the individual camp June 5-10 at Diddle

Arena.

The team camp will be June 12-17.

For more information call 745-2132.

'Area' team UK makes

D.N. 5-24-88

Joel Murrie wasn't naming names last Friday night, but you knew who he was talking about.

"I will be very disappointed if another team in this area gets a bid and we don't," Murrie said after Western's baseball season ended in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament.

He was talking about at-large bids to the NCAA Tournament, starting Wednesday at eight regional sites across the country. And the team he was talking about was that old on-the-field and recruiting nemesis Kentucky.

The Wildcats, who split with Western during the regular season, certainly did get an NCAA bid to the 48-team field, which was an-



Mark C. Mathis

**Daily News
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nounced Monday. And the Wildcats got quite a high seeding, too, No. 3 in the Northeast Regional in New Britain, Conn. Kentucky, ranked No. 19 in the Collegiate Baseball poll, will play Rutgers in the open-

ing round.

Murrie must be steaming.

Western and Kentucky — or more precisely, Murrie and UK coach Keith Madison — have battled it out over players and recognition for several years. The miniwar came to a head a couple of years ago when the two were going after Bowling Green pitchers Tom Deller and Doug Sutton. Madison and UK got them both.

Murrie maintains, as he always has, that when the two schools play, it's nothing more than a weekday game. But, it must stick in Murrie's craw that the Wildcats, with a 35-23 record and second-place finish in the strong Southeastern Conference, are going

NCAA tourney

to the NCAA Tournament and the Hilltoppers aren't.

Western finished up with a 43-21 slate and put some very impressive numbers up in the last month and a half of the season. Some of those impressive numbers included an 18-5 win over the Wildcats in Lexington back in April. Unfortunately for the Hilltoppers, UK beat them 7-3 at Denes Field earlier in the season.

Politics have a lot to do with the selection of teams for the NCAA Tournament in basketball and baseball.

In 1985, Western had perhaps its second-best team ever, going 43-20, blasting 114 home runs and becoming only the second collegiate team ever to have three players with over 20 homers each.

The Hilltoppers lost an 11-10 heartbreaker to Old Dominion in the finals of the SBC Tournament that year in Norfolk, Va., and didn't get invited to the 40-team NCAA Tournament.

Kentucky, despite not getting 40 wins, played a very tough schedule this year, including No. 1 Oklahoma State, No. 6 Florida and No. 16 Mississippi State. The Wildcats went 2-1 against Florida in their early-season series. Sutton picked up one of the wins against the Gators and another against Mississippi State, ranked No. 13 at the time.

Madison complained loudly when his team didn't get in the NCAA last year. UK has the clout — and not just in basketball — to get into the NCAA Tournament. This year it also had the schedule.

Western, as Murrie himself has admitted, had a bunch of

overachievers who went 57-59 the last two seasons and reached the SBC Tournament finals last year.

"I don't want to take anything away from the team's performance," Murrie said. "But we played over our heads this year. We played on a lot of desire and intensity. We will miss our seniors. It will be hard to replace people who were so motivational and had such good work habits."

Tony Compton, Jeff Meler, Mike Latham, Derek Truss, Juan Galan, Gary Mueller, Stan Cook and Gerald Ingram are those seniors.

It's too bad they couldn't have gone out with a NCAA Tournament, but they knew they had to win the SBC Tournament to do it. Murrie did too.

Western's bats, which had been so hot during the season, cooled off measurably during the tournament.

Latham went 1 for 12, Mueller 4 for 17, Cook 2 for 19.

Western's leading hitters might have been suffering from that now infamous SBC Tournament jinx.

Three times Western has hosted SBC Tournaments — one in men's basketball, one in women's basketball and the just completed baseball tournament.

Western teams are now 1-2 in such events, the lone winner being the 1985-86 Lady Toppers, who went to their second straight Final Four that year.

Turner makes team

D.N. 6-13-88

Three Western baseball players and Darren Kizziah on the second made the All-Sun Belt Conference team.

first team, and three made the second team chosen by the league's head coaches. Jacksonville's Ernie Carr was named Player of the Year, and Virginia Commonwealth's Tony Guzzo was Coach of the Year.

Stan Cook, Mike Latham and Gary Mueller made the first team. Western won the West Division

Former Warren Central great Chris Turner joined Pete Davids regular season title and finished 43-21.

Murrie camp to be June 20-23

The second session of the Joel Murrie Baseball Camp will be Monday, June 20-Thursday, June 23 at Griffin Park.

The camp is open to youngsters 9-years-old through high school seniors-to-be.

There is a \$50 fee for the camp, which will be from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. daily.

WESTERN KENTUCKY (B-)

RECORD: 15-13.

MAJOR NEEDS: Center and small forward.

RECRUITS: Mike Wilson, 6-5, Stone Mountain, Ga., Redan HS; Jerry Anderson, 6-8, Brooklyn, N.Y., Columbia, (Calif.) JC; Scott Boley, 6-8, Hodgenville, Ky., LaRue County HS; Chris Bowles, 6-9, Madisonville, Ky., HS; Stanley Jackson, 6-8, Wauchula, Fla., Manatta (Fla.) JC.

COMMENT: Losing Brewer (to U of L) and Farmer (UK) after leading most of the way had to be a big blow. However, the Toppers signed four players 6-8 or taller. Anderson is a great athlete who should give veteran Anthony Smith some much needed help up front. Wilson, ranked among the nation's top 100 prep players, is a big-time guard. Boley and Bowles aren't ready yet, but could develop into impact players.

— Bruce Branch

CORVETTE CLASSIC

At Bowling Green

Round-robin — Marquette 3 (Paul Jakubczak 2, Kevin Wasco), Memphis State 0; Southern Illinois at Edwardsville 2 (Jim Nischbach, Tom Stone), Western Kentucky 1 (Mike Irby). Round-robin champion — SIUE. MVP — Nischbach (SIUE).

Friday's results — SIUE 4, Marquette 2; Memphis State 2, Western Kentucky 2, tie.

GARDNER CUP TOURNAMENT

At Kirksville, Mo.

Missouri-Rolla 4 (Kurt O'Brien 2, Doug Tieber, Mike Balassi), Bellarmine 1 (David Ringwald); Northeast Missouri State 7 (Brian Taylor 3, Quinn Ross 2, Dave Narvaez 2), Northern Kentucky 1 (Herbie Kunz).

Baseball

At Bellarmine

Western Kentucky 620 000 000—2 3 1
Bellarmine 000 000 000—0 4 0
W—Darnall, L—Wiegandt. 2B—Pell (B).
Buser (B).

Cross country

WRIGHT STATE INVITATIONAL

At Miamisburg, Ohio

Men's Teams — Wright State 48, Cincinnati 69, Heidelberg 87, Cedarville 94, Northern Kentucky 154, Bellarmine 169, Georgetown 177, Wittenberg 180, Evansville 210, Dayton 224, Asbury 341.

Individuals — 1. Eric Fillinger (CV) 25:20; 2. Doug Peterson (WS) 25:39; 3. Sam Studebaker (WS) 26:01; 4. Dave Keys (G) 26:14; 5. Jim Beyer (C) 26:14; 6. Jenkins Davis (H) 26:18; 7. Dennis Jessie (B) 26:24; 8. J.P. Dawes (CV) 26:43; 9. Randy Phelps (H) 26:49; 10. T.J. Lentz (W) 26:49.

Women's Teams — Wright State 47, Cedarville 60, Cincinnati 69, Evansville 111, Georgetown 134, Wittenberg 169, Bellarmine 172, Heidelberg 189, Asbury 238.

Individuals — 1. Mary Lobker (C) 19:32; 2. Brenda Paulbanus (CV) 20:38; 3. Debbie Doll (C) 20:53; 4. Jean Cleary (W) 20:54; 5. Tonia Donnick (WS) 20:59; 6. Cheryl Searcy (WS) 21:07; 7. Tammy Harvor (CV) 21:10; 8. Mindy Schwederer (CV) 21:20; 9. Michelle Weiss (WS) 21:35; 10. Libby Cosler (G) 21:42. C.J. 9-18-82

12,013.

At Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Western Kentucky ... 3 0 0 7-10
Middle Tennessee ... 7 0 6 0-13

Western Kentucky — Dan Maher, 29, FG; Middle Tennessee — Wade Johnson, 1, run (Joe Lisle kick); Middle Tennessee — Johnson, 1, run (kick blocked); Western Kentucky — Joe Arnold, 7, pass from David Armstrong (Maher kick). C.J. 9-19-82